



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

24 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

START OF AUTUMN TERM ARRANGEMENTS

I hope you have all been able to enjoy a restful summer. We are looking forward to seeing all students returning at the start of September. While there is talk in the press of significant delays to the start of term, I am keen that we do not delay the return of students any longer than is absolutely necessary.

I appreciate that this letter is long, but it contains essential information about when we return as well as *how* we will return in September. As ever, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school on enquiries@theacademy.me.

System of Controls

As you will be aware, 'Step 4' of the government's roadmap was implemented on 19 July. In order to ensure we can return as smoothly and safely as possible, I would like to confirm some of the arrangements around this for students returning in September.

We have been advised that a number of changes have been made to the restrictions around the way schools operate from 19 July and in September:

- ***secondary schools have been asked to prepare for on-site (lateral flow) testing at the beginning of the autumn term***
- ***schools will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace***
- ***students do not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')***
- ***face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas***

We will therefore implement these changes from September unless the guidance changes. However, in order to minimise the further spread of infection, we will continue to enforce handwashing and the use of hand sanitiser around the school.

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Lateral Flow Testing in the Autumn Term

Staff and students will be required to continue to test twice a week when they return. We have been advised that this will continue into September and will be reviewed towards the end of the month.

Therefore, we will issue every student a supply of Lateral Flow Test kits on their return. We will also continue to send out the reminder texts every Sunday and Wednesday and would be grateful if you could record your result with us using the following link:

[Home Testing for Covid 19 2021-22](#)

Lateral Flow Tests and Return to School in September

Students will be required to have two on-site lateral flow tests (LFDs) on their return to school in September. These tests have to be between 3 and 5 days apart. Please see below the schedule for your child's return:

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 & 13 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, 01 September <i>Staff Training Day</i> | Test 1 between 12:30-13:45 No uniform required. Arrive between 12:30-13:45 12:30. | Not in school | Not in school | Not in school | Test 1 between 14:00-15:30 No uniform required. Arrive between 14:00-15:30 | Test 1 between 14:00-15:30 No uniform required. Arrive between 14:00-15:30 |
| Thursday, 02 September | First full day of school. Go to the Main Hall. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | Test 1 between 09:00-10:15 No uniform required. Arrive between 09:00am - 10:15am | Test 1 between 10:30-11:45 No uniform required. Arrive between 10:30am-11:45am. | Test 1 between 12:00-13:15 No uniform required. Arrive between 12:00am-13:15am. | First full day of school. Go to the Atrium. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | First full day of school. Go to brown tables in the Atrium. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. |
| Friday, 03 September | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | First full day of school. Go to the Sports Hall. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | First full day of school. Go to the Main Hall. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | First full day of school. Go to the Atrium. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. |
| Monday, 06 September | Test 2 during the school day. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | Test 2 during the school day. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | Test 2 during the school day. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. |

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| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 & 13 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, 07 September | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | Test 2 during the school day. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | Test 2 during the school day. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | Test 2 during the school day. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | School as normal. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. |
| Wednesday, 08 September | School as normal for all students. Doors open at 08:00am School starts at 08:25am. | | | | | |

Students should arrive at the Main Reception for their tests. They will then be directed into the testing area.

You will already have told us whether you give consent for you to test your child. **If you wish to change your consent, please click on the following link:**

[CONSENT FOR LATERAL FLOW TESTING FROM SEPTEMBER 2021](#)

Punctuality

The school day begins at 08:25 am. Therefore, students must be **inside their tutor room and sitting down before by 08:30am**, otherwise they will be marked late.

Uniform

We will expect every student to wear the full school uniform on their return to school in September.

Compulsory school uniform is as follows:

- Navy blazer with the Academy logo
- Academy logo tie
- Plain white shirt or plain white cotton kameez
- Black trousers or black skirt (skirts must be below the knee; trousers can be tailored but cannot be tight fitting)
- Black leather shoes of sensible design with low heels (black trainers, plimsolls and canvas shoes are not permitted)
- Socks or black tights
- Hijab – plain white cotton
- Optional: Grey v-neck sweater with the Academy logo

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The following are **not permitted**

- Piercings – students are permitted one small discrete stud in each ear. One small discrete nose stud is permitted. Hoops are not permitted. Students will be asked to remove extra piercings in school
- Acrylic or false nails. Only clear nail polish is permitted. Students will be asked to remove nail polish and false nails in school
- Bandanas, hats or headbands around the forehead. Hair ties and hair bands should be in school colours of blue or green
- No extremes of hair colour or style. Only colours deemed natural are allowed
- Any form of leggings.
- Sweatshirts, hoodies and coats must be removed inside the building. These will be confiscated if worn inside the building.
- Necklaces must be inside the clothing and other jewellery such as rings and bracelets should be minimal for health and safety reasons

We will record all breaches of the school uniform and text parents on every occasion this happens. Students will receive sanctions for repeated breaches of non-uniform.

Equipment

Students are required to carry all of their own equipment. Only specialist items will be issued.

Essential Items

- An appropriate bag
- Water bottle
- Pen
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Highlighters
- Any school-issued books/folders/textbooks you have at home
- Scientific calculator

Desirable

- Glue stick
- Coloured pencils
- Dictionary
- A pair of compasses
- Protractor
- Pencil Sharpener

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NB. Students are not permitted to bring in scissors. These will be issued in class, if required.

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Home School Agreement

In order to strengthen our working relationships with parents and, in response to some of the points raised in the recent parents' survey, we have reviewed our Home School Agreement. I have sent the Home School Agreement with this letter. I would be grateful if you could read it and electronically sign it using the link below. [Home School Agreement](#)

We are very much looking forward to starting a new academic year under less restrictive conditions. I hope you are able to have a good break and we look forward to seeing students back in September.

Yours sincerely

MR G GIBSON
Academy Principal

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