



# Ark Charter Academy

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Dear parent/carer,

You will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement last night about schools and the decision to have all year groups back in full-time education on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. You can read the government's plan [here](#).

We cannot wait to welcome back all our students, but I appreciate that there may be some nervousness for us all as we approach this. I want to assure you that, as ever, the safety and wellbeing of your children and our staff remains the priority.

For secondary schools specifically, the government's plan includes:

- All students and staff wearing face coverings inside, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- All students who have provided consent taking three COVID-19 tests as they return to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March at existing school testing facilities. After the initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home.
- Staff will also be provided with two tests to use each week at home.

We will now start planning for a safe return to school for our students and staff and I will share more information with you as soon as these are finalised.

A key component of this plan will be the COVID-19 tests that students and staff are being asked to take as they return. Testing is voluntary but, for the safety of all, we are encouraging as many students as possible to participate.

On their return students are expected to wear full school uniform, including black leather trainers or shoes. Please ensure all lockdown hair colours, cuts and piercings are returned to being school compliant. If there are any issues with your child returning to school in full school uniform, or hair colours, cuts and piercings please contact the school.

If your child is in Year 11, we expect the government to announce further details later this week regarding exams and will provide you with an update once this information has been published.

To enable the preparations for all our students to return to site, we will be shortening the school day every day next week so that all students will finish their lessons at 12.20pm. Students attending our onsite provision will still have a lunch provided each day and will leave site at 1.30pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support with your child's remote learning/or attending our on-site provision.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with me via email.

Warm regards,

**Fiona Chapman**  
Executive Principal



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