

GN/DSa

17 March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

What an absolute pleasure it has been to welcome back all of our students. The students have shown a brilliant attitude to their work and have been very responsible in terms of all our Covid- related Health and Safety precautions- including wearing masks in the classrooms. I appreciate how uncomfortable this is and would like to thank all of you who have supported us with this. As you know, the government have pledged to review this at Easter and as soon as any changes can be put in place I will let you know.

Most students have also come back with really excellent attitudes to their learning and it's great to see them all so engaged in the classrooms- it's been far too quiet in school without them!

Testing

By the end of this week all students who have opted into testing in the academy will have completed three tests. In all 87% of students have been taking the tests. Luckily we currently have only a very small number of students isolating at the moment and we would like to keep it this way to avoid further disruption to their education and normality so I would urge you to keep reminding your children the importance of adhering to all guidelines both in the academy and outside it.

Home testing

Following on from the three rounds of testing in the Academy, the Government has advised that students will begin testing at home, twice weekly. All students will be given home test kits after their 3rd test and we recommend that testing is carried out at home on a Sunday and Wednesday. All instructions on how to administer the tests are included in the pack. Following the completion of the tests, you will need to let gov.uk know of your result and we also require you to inform us of the result using a short Microsoft form, via the link below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HCBDF7GBoEOqWbJW_OwBUWL51uLhughFsqdb91K1B3NUM0owRzREMEc4UU9QVTUxNk5HVTgyQ0sxVi4u

This form will require you to input the following information: Child's Name, Child's Year Group, Date of Test, LOT number (can be found on the testing pack) Results of test: Positive or Negative.

Where the test result is positive, we ask you to contact the Academy as soon as possible by telephone as well as completing the online form. Students will be required to isolate for ten days. Unlike onsite testing, the guidance states that a positive home test may be confirmed with a PCR test. If this confirmatory PCR test is returned as negative, the student may return to the Academy.

Where there is a positive home test, we will do close contact tracing for the 48 hours previous. If a student is required to isolate due to being identified as a close contact, this student can only return sooner than the ten days of isolation, if the original student receives a negative PCR test.

Lunches

Thank you to everyone who supported before Christmas when we needed to ask you to send your child with a packed lunch. As you know, our kitchens are now running at a greater capacity with sandwiches and pizza. I am delighted to be able to announce that after the Easter holidays we will be able to





The Birley Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Gina Newton

Address: Birley Lane,
Sheffield S12 3BP

Telephone: 0114 239 2531

enquiries@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk

provide a wider range of hot meals at lunchtimes to our students. Colleagues in the kitchen are working on the fantastic new menus now.

Y10

As we move forward with all our students back we are currently reviewing how best to support our Y10 students as they prepare for year 11. The first is we are reviewing the crucially important Work Experience which we would like students to still have the option to participate in. If you are able to offer a work experience placement, or if you are willing to talk to some students about your work, career and your pathway to get there we would love to hear from you. We would welcome all sectors but are particularly interested in those who work in the following sectors:

- Health
- Social care
- Accountancy and finance
- Law
- Public services
- Nursing
- Engineering
- Mechanics
- Construction and associated jobs e.g. electricians, carpentry etc.
- Sport and fitness
- Animal care

If you think you can help our lovely Y10s or if you would like to know more then please contact:

AnnPemberton@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk

For Year 10 moving into Y11 we will also be conducting a review of the curriculum. To do this we will be listening to Y10 about what their big concerns are going forward and what support they would find helpful.

Mobile Phones

A polite reminder that mobile phones and other electronic devices are not allowed to be used in school. Any device that we become aware of will be confiscated immediately, whether or not it is in use. All students are very clear on this. First confiscations will be returned at the end of the day, further confiscations will mean that the device has to be collected by a parent. Students are well aware of these rules that have now been in place for a long time. If you need to contact your child urgently through the day please support us by not texting or phoning them. In cases of emergency reception will be happy to pass a message on for you.

Teaching and Learning

Our lessons continue to be posted on sharepoint. These should be accessed by any student who is isolating. They are an excellent resource that can also be used for revision and revisiting or for catching up after any absence. Please encourage your child to make use of these resources.





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On-site parking

As you will be aware we have five bays designated as disabled parking bays. We have a number of students and parents who require these parking bays throughout the school day and for evening access. Unfortunately too often our students and parents who need these spaces are unable to access them because they are being used by others. Please be considerate of all members of our school community and do not use these bays unless your child has a blue badge, or if it is you accessing the school, and you have a blue badge.

And finally

I would like to thank all our parents and carers for the very many messages of support and thanks we have received. Everyone in the academy loves the job they do but the positive feedback makes the job even better. In turn, I would like to thank all of you for the support that you give us and the huge role you have played in ensuring that your child has engaged and completed so much learning in lockdown, whether it has meant making lamps, lots of baking (and clearing up) or overseeing Hegarty maths.

Yours sincerely,

**Gina Newton
Headteacher**

