

24 February 2021

TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to confirm that all learners will be returning to The JCB Academy during the **week commencing 8 March 2021**. This is fabulous news and we can't wait to have everyone back.

Our aim is to get everyone back safely and quickly as possible. In response to learner and parental comments in the recent questionnaires, we want to make the start back to the academy a truly positive experience with an opportunity for learners to spend time with friends and staff and to get back into the rhythms of academy life.

A huge thanks to all families who have returned their consent forms for the lateral flow tests; this will enable us to ensure the safest return possible. Learners will return in a staggered way to allow everyone to be tested and whilst not ideal, I hope parents/carers and learners will understand that this is because the academy is unlike most schools in relation to the number of learners who use our buses. It is vitally important that we do not allow a situation where learners in one year group who have been tested are able to mix with learners from other year groups before they are tested, either in the academy or on the academy buses.

- **Phased return**

The plan below outlines the initial return dates for each year group during the first week. **Learners will only come into the academy on the days shown below.**

Adjusted bus pick up times for the later start for Y11 on Tuesday and Y10 on Thursday will be sent to you at the beginning of next week.

Monday, 8 March 2021	Tuesday, 9 March 2021	Wednesday, 10 March 2021	Thursday, 11 March 2021	Friday, 12 March 2021
08:30-15:30 Y11	08:30-15:30 Y12 Y13	08:30-15:30 Y10	08:30-15:30 Y9	08:30-15:30 Y9
	10:30-15:30 Y11		10:30-15:30 Y10	

The academy will remain open for vulnerable and critical worker learners, however from 8 March 2021 these learners will rejoin their year group bubbles.

During this first week, learners will take a lateral flow test and have a variety of experiences and opportunities to help them settle smoothly back into the academy.

Learners will continue with their on-line learning until all learners return to the academy on Monday, 15 March 2021 (Week A). Lessons from 1-12 March 2021 will be a mixture of live lessons and opportunities for independent work to enable teams of staff and year groups to return to the academy.

We are striving to make learners' first days back positive and we want to support them in readjusting to the business world of the academy. The importance uniform makes to this mind-set cannot be overstated and I thank you in advance for using the time between now and 8 March 2021 to replace uniform and shoes which no longer fit and for double checking learners arrive looking professional and ready to work.

Learners will also need their PE kit and PPE during the first few days as there will be opportunities to take part in team sports and practical activities.

- **Lateral flow tests and preventing transmission**

Please note that the lateral flow tests are designed to pick up asymptomatic cases. ***Any learner who feels unwell in any way should NOT come to the academy and should get a test via the NHS.***

All learners will be offered three tests in total between 8 March 2021 and 20 March 2021 and we will provide learners with sufficient support to be able to continue to use the lateral flow tests twice a week at home before they come into the academy. Even when learners test negative, they must remain cautious and follow good social distancing rules and hand sanitising. Also please note that following the new government guidance, up until Easter masks must be worn by both learners and staff in all areas where it is not possible to keep 2m apart. Learners also need to continue to wear a mask when travelling on the academy buses. Learners will need at least two masks with them during the day and a plastic bag to keep them clean for when they are not worn. Please take a few minutes to emphasise to your son/daughter the important part masks play in keeping our community safe.

Many of you are already familiar with school testing, however for others I appreciate this might be new information. I can reassure you that it is a very simple and easy process and after learners have done it once or twice, they will be comfortable with it. Please take a few minutes to show this short informational clip to your son/daughter:

<https://go.tessello.co.uk/TestDeviceTraining/CSR/client/TestDeviceTraining/18-HowtogiveguidanceonselfswabbingfortheInnovaLFDtest-202121871622/index.html#/page/5f3e35dfa233c00857c9134f>



I cannot stress enough to parents/carers that if we are to maintain the safety of our community consenting to your son/daughter taking part in school testing is vital, therefore if you have not already completed the attached consent form, please do so as a matter of urgency.

I am extremely grateful to all parents/carers for all your support during this lockdown and I am looking forward to seeing all our wonderful learners back in the academy. Between now and then learners must keep going with remote learning; this will put them in the strongest position for when we all return.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mrs J McGuirk', written over a faint circular stamp.

Mrs J McGuirk
Principal