

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you have enjoyed the holidays so far, and whilst there is still a week to go before students return to TCA, I wanted to send you a reminder of dates and times for testing and the first day back.

Testing

Students whose parents/carers have consented to testing will be offered three self-administered rapid result COVID-19 tests during the period of term starting. In order to ensure that students can return as planned on Tuesday, 7th September, the first one will be either next Thursday or Friday. Please see the table below for details and ensure that your child attends at the time specified:

Year group	Test 1 date	Arrive from	Test 2
7	Thursday, 2 nd September	9am	Tuesday, 7 th September
8	Friday, 3 rd September	9am	Wednesday, 8 th September
9	Friday, 3 rd September	11am	Wednesday, 8 th September
10	Friday, 3 rd September	1pm	Wednesday, 8 th September
11	Thursday, 2 nd September	12pm	Tuesday, 7 th September

All students should arrive and leave via the entrance at Glebe Gate – the main entrance is not available owing to building work.

Information for new year 7 parents/carers

Testing was used in schools and colleges across the UK before the return to face-to-face education in March 2021. The lateral flow tests that are used produce a result in 15 minutes and do not require laboratory processing or to be administered by clinically trained members of staff.

Schools will be provided with lateral flow tests free of charge from NHS Test and Trace. Staff in school will be trained on how to run a testing programme, how to oversee tests being taken and how to manage the process safely.

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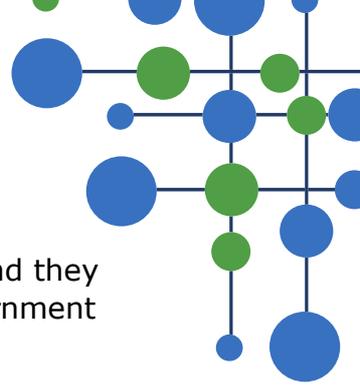
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Following this, students will be given lateral flow test kits in school, and they should test twice weekly at home on a Wednesday and Sunday. Government guidance on this will be reviewed at the end of September.

Start of term – Tuesday, 7th September

Year 7 – Start at TCA at 8.40am

Year 8 -11 – Return to TCA at 11am

Uniform

Ahead of the start of term, and if you are in the process of organising your children's uniform, a reminder to please ensure that the uniform meets the high expectations that we have.

Students' uniform is very good, but please pay particular attention to ensuring that your child has black shoes and skirts. Skirts worn must be knee length and not made of stretchy material, and shoes must not be trainers, not even black ones. Leather type black school shoes are required.

The Academy is part of the Uniform Exchange program (<https://www.uniform-exchange.org>) for anyone who is having any difficulty with acquiring uniform. Uniform Exchange will also gratefully receive any items of uniform you no longer need (or your child doesn't fit in anymore). There is more information on uniform on the Academy's website.

Piercings

Ahead of the start of term, to clarify, TCA allows one small stud/sleeper type earring in each earlobe. Piercings in any other part of the ear are not allowed to be worn at TCA. We also allow one small nose stud. Any other piercings (such as tongue piercings) are not permitted.

If a student arrives with non-permitted piercings, then they will be required to remove them on the first request. For Health and Safety reasons **all** jewellery must be removed in PE lessons. If your child has any piercings that are not allowed, please ensure they are removed before they leave home.

Looking ahead...

All that is left to say is to wish you a pleasant final week of the holidays. I can't wait to get going with 2021/22 with our students and wider community. Here's to a positive year of being nice and working hard.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Burton
Headteacher