

26th February 2021

Year 8 Reopening Schedule

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we collectively handle the challenges posed by Covid-19.

You will no doubt have seen the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will re-open fully, for all students, from Monday 8th March, with testing in place for all students. The Government has given secondary schools discretion as to how to phase the return to school over that week and I wanted to ensure all families have clarity on our carefully thought through approach.

We are looking forward very much to having all students back in our academy and want to assure you that – as has been the case throughout the coronavirus crisis – we will ensure the academy is as safe as it possibly can be. The health and safety of all our students and staff, is the most important factor always for us. It is also imperative that we take the time to induct students back into academy life after such a long period of remote learning. Below is the overview for all Year 8 students on their return to academy life:

	Wednesday 3 rd March	Thursday 4 th March	Friday 5 th March	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
Year 8	Remote Learning - Live Lessons	Remote Learning - Live Lessons	Testing Day 1 (am)	Remote Learning - Live Lessons	Remote Learning - Live Lessons	Testing Day 2 (am)	In School Induction Programme	In School Induction Programme

- **Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th, Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th March** - all Y8 students will continue with remote learning and access their live lessons through Microsoft Teams
- **Friday 5th & Wednesday 10th March** – All Y8 students to be tested during an allocated time slot. Please ensure that they arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to their allocated time and must leave immediately after testing has completed. Students will enter through the Hospitality entrance at the front of the academy. Students will not be required to wear academy uniform. No live lessons will take place on either of these 2 days. (The students' third test will take place during week commencing 15th March when they are back in the academy.) Please familiarise yourself with the timings below for your son/daughter:

Y8	
05.03.21 & 10.03.21	
TIME SLOT	FIRST LETTER OF SURNAME
8:30 - 9:30am	A-C
9:30 - 10:30am	D-J
10:30 - 11:30am	K-R
11:30am - 12:30pm	S-Z

- **Thursday 11th & Friday 12th March** – all Y8 students to return to the academy and will undertake a 2-day induction programme. Students are expected to arrive to the academy for 8.30am, lining up on the Tennis Courts and be in full academy uniform

The Key Worker / Vulnerable Student Provision will not take place during the week beginning 8th March to allow us to effectively conduct the mass testing across the academy

There are a number of specific points about the full return to school that I wanted to set out in this letter, which I hope are helpful.

Testing

- All students will be consistently tested for Covid-19, using 'lateral flow tests'. It is not compulsory to take these tests, but the Government's health advice is that effective testing helps stop the virus spreading and will mean schools are as safe as possible, so is encouraging it.
- The Department for Education will shortly provide us with the testing kits, which can be taken at school or at home and we will update you on the collection and delivery of these kits in due course.
- Once these tests are received:
 - Students will be tested by trained staff three times at the academy in the first two weeks back.
 - After the first two weeks back at school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home.
 - Students will be allowed to attend lessons as normal after their first negative result.
 - Parents and carers will be required to report results to the academy to record. We will confirm how this system will operate in due course.
 - Students who develop Covid-19 symptoms should self-isolate immediately, as now, according to Government guidelines.
 - If a student tests positive for Covid-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the day after they tested positive or the day after they start to have symptoms.
 - The academy will retain a "small" testing site for those unable to test at home, while all our staff will also be given twice weekly home tests.
 - As mentioned, trained staff will supervise tests taken at school. Lateral flow tests are quick and easy to administer, using a swab of your nose and throat. Results take around half an hour from testing and will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. For under-18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Where participants are under-16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

Masks

- The Government has recommended the use of face masks indoors – including in classrooms – unless 2-metre social distancing can be maintained. This policy will be reviewed over the Easter Holidays, so will be in place until at least the end of this term and applies to students, staff and visitors (including parents), unless they are exempt from wearing one.
- We therefore encourage all students and parents to ensure they have a suitable number of face masks for the resumption of school on 8th March. Leading up to Christmas, a significant number of students were arriving at the academy without a mask which had an impact on learning time. Please ensure you use the next week or so prepare your child effectively for their return

Equipment, Uniform & Personal Appearance

- All students must arrive to the academy in their full school uniform and fully equipped for learning on Thursday 11th March. It is important that they take the time over the next week to make sure any uniform alterations are addressed and to ensure PE kits, school bags, exercise books and pencil cases are all ready to go.
- Please ensure personal appearance matches the academy expectations and all hair and nail issues are addressed as a matter of importance.
- Please have a read through our uniform policy on the link below if you are unsure on any specifics

http://www.ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OHA_Uniform20.pdf

If you need to purchase any new uniform, you can do so online with our uniform supplier, Supersport, who are also offering free home delivery:

[ORMISTON.HORIZON.ACADEMY \(supersport.co.uk\)](http://ORMISTON.HORIZON.ACADEMY.supersport.co.uk)

Support & Wellbeing

If you have any concerns regarding your child's return to school please contact your child's Head of Year or Raising Standards Leader at the earliest possible opportunity and before your child's return date. We will endeavour to put bespoke arrangements into place to meet your family's needs and will work with you to find a positive solution.

Year 8 RSL – wilkes@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk

Year 8 Head of Year - ksheldon@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk

If you have any SEND concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs Marsh or Miss Adams on the email address below:

Mrs Marsh – jmarsh@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk

Miss Adams – jadams@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk

A small number of students will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

Where this is the case, please continue to follow the procedures established in September and inform the attendance office immediately.

The Government's announcement indicates we are tentatively returning to normal. However, I wanted to reiterate how alert we are to the continued risk of Covid-19. We will continue to adhere to stringent health and safety measures now and when fully open. Your support in helping us be as safe as possible is much appreciated and will help ensure we stay open to all pupils and keep your child, our staff and you, safe.

I have included a list of FAQs which will hopefully answer any of your immediate queries.

If you have any further questions, please email them to the following email address –

covid@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk

I hope this letter is helpful and reassuring, but please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Fitzgibbon
Principal

FAQs

Do all students have to test?

Testing is voluntary and individuals will be allowed to attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known.

Why can't students start testing at home immediately?

It is important that initially students are supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site.

Can students swab themselves?

Yes, in an Asymptomatic Testing Site all students can swab themselves if they are able to. When testing at home, children should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary.

What happens if a student struggles to perform the test?

If a student administers the test and finds it difficult then there are Testing Assistants on hand to provide support. They are well-trained and will administer the test for the student if they request it. If a student feels that they cannot complete the test after the support of a Testing Assistant, there will be no requirement for them to complete it and their parent/ carer will be contacted.

What happens if a student test positive following the asymptomatic test?

If a student tests positive for Covid-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the day after they tested positive and we must be informed immediately.

What happens if a student is unable to test themselves at home but have opted in for testing?

We will retain a "small" testing site for those unable to test at home. Please inform the academy if you are unable to administer the home test.