

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS
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Ref: LBO/TOV

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to wait until I had the full information from the Department for Education before writing to you to provide the arrangements for this term. However, before I go into details, I would like to express my thanks for all your support throughout the lockdown period; it has been a difficult time for all but I feel our students have done remarkably well and demonstrated great independence and resilience throughout.

I do not underestimate the care needed regarding the planning for the transition back into school for the young people in my care, nor the staff. I aim to provide as much clarity as possible so that for those who belong to the learning community at Plympton, they can be reassured the risk will be minimised as much as possible whilst still providing a quality education.

Lateral Flow Testing

There will be three lateral flow tests (LFT) conducted in school during the weeks beginning the 8th March, 15th March and 22nd March, as detailed below. Students are strongly encouraged to have these to be able to support the wider opening of the Academy for face-to-face teaching and learning.

In a separate letter, students will be provided with an allocated date and time the student will need to arrive at the Academy for their first LFT: please can I ask that students do not arrive more than 10 minutes ahead of the time slot to support the task of testing all 1007 Academy students. Once this test result has been seen to be negative, they will then be allowed to join their normal timetabled classes. Please see below the date when students in different year groups will receive their first LFT.

Date	Year Group	Lateral flow test
Mon 08.03.21	Y11, Y12, Y13	1
Tues 09.03.21	Y10, 9CWE, 9DHE, 9LBL, 9MLU	1
Weds 10.03.21	Y8, 9MRO, 9SCR, 9SCL	1
Thurs 11.03.21	Y11, Y12, Y13	2
Fri 12.03.21	Y7	1



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During this first week of LFTs, those students who remain at home will continue to be set remote learning to complete. All live lessons and seminars will be suspended this week. There will be no remote learning set on the day they are due to return to school.

The second and third tests are also completed on site during the school day at an allocated time (see dates below); students are then advised to complete twice weekly testing at home to support their attendance at the Academy. Twice weekly home test results will need to be reported back to the Academy and we will provide further information on the process for this next week.

Date	Year Group	Lateral flow test
Mon 15.03.21	Y10, 9CWE, 9DHE, 9LBL, 9MLU	2
Tues 16.03.21	Y8, 9MRO, 9SCR, 9SCL	2
Weds 17.03.21	Y7	2
Thurs 18.03.21	Y11, Y12, Y13	3
Fri 19.03.21	Y10, 9CWE, 9DHE, 9LBL, 9MLU	3

Date	Year Group	Lateral flow test
Mon 22.03.21	Y8, 9MRO, 9SCR, 9SCL	3
Tues 23.03.21	Y7	3

Please note, that whilst these tests are not compulsory, they are strongly advised by the Government guidance provided to schools and we would hope that parents will support this approach for the protection of students and staff. Consent forms for lateral flow testing have already been sent out to parents and I thank you to the majority of parents who have notified us of their participation. However, if you have chosen for your son/daughter not to participate, they will need to attend the Academy at their allocated date and time and notify the person in charge of the testing arrangements of this decision. They will then check these details with parental correspondence received and, once this has been confirmed, the student will then attend their usual class.

Wearing of face coverings

Government guidance (*Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance*) states that “face covering should be worn by both students and staff in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. It is also recommended that face covering should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, in corridors and communal areas where social distancing can not be easily maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises”.

As such we ask that all students, unless exempt, have two face coverings for use during the Academy day - one for general use and one for spare. These should be kept in a plastic bag when not in use and washed on a daily basis, if they are reusable. If your son/daughter is exempt, the Head of Year should already have been notified and the student must wear their lanyard clearly demonstrating their exemption. There will be a small number of face masks available on site should your son/daughter forget theirs, however, this item is now a compulsory part of the school uniform and we thank you for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter comes ready for the day. This will be reviewed, in line with government guidance, at Easter.

Ventilation

To support good ventilation during lessons, internal doors to classrooms will be kept open with windows slightly ajar. Again this is fully in line with government guidance. It is felt that the wearing of coats in lessons is no longer needed as we move into warmer spring weather: please support us by ensuring this message is shared with your son/daughter prior to the 8th March. There may be exceptions to this if the weather dictates such, however, the wearing of a white t-shirt under the shirt should suffice.

Uniform

To reiterate our current uniform policy, all students should be wearing their blazer, white shirt, tie, black trousers or Academy skirt, with plain black shoes or trainers - no logos. If they are having PE or Dance during the day, students should come to school wearing their PE kit consisting of PE top (with plain base layer if needed), Academy wet top, black tracksuit bottoms and appropriate footwear.

Please check your child's uniform over the next week to ensure that it still fits!

Staff training day

Please note that Friday 5th March is the rearranged training day for staff at the Academy. There will be no work set on this day for students and there will be no Educare available on this day.

Food arrangements

When students return to school, an extensive menu of both hot and cold food will be available to order using the Fusion App for your son/daughter to eat during break and/or lunch time. Please remember to top up their Parent Pay account and remind them to order by 0830 the same morning.

Homework - Wk. Beg. 15th March

Homework is an important part of Academy life and the setting of this will start on Monday 15th March. Further information regarding this will be available nearer the time.

Educare

For those students who are already registered in Educare, this provision will still be available through the week of the 8th March until the day students return to school. Please ensure that you let us know if you no longer need this facility so we can plan our staff levels accordingly.

Students using Educare will now enter and exit using the Year 7 entrance (Co-op entrance) and will be required to wear the Academy uniform.

End of day times / gates

In order to support quick dispersion of our students at the end of the day please note the following finish times for each year group:

Year 7	1500
Year 8	1500
Year 9	1500 - from the gate in the MUGA area
Year 10	1500
Year 11	1455
Sixth form	1450 - from the Morpurgo Studio gate

Visitors

Please note that visitors are still restricted onto site and as such parents must only attend if an appointment has been made. In addition, parents are asked not to drop off items for their son/daughter at present.

Attendance

As from the 8th March, it is compulsory for your son/daughter to attend school. We are delighted to be able to welcome them back and all staff are looking forward to supporting that transition in a positive way.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Ms L Boorman
Principal