





# Padgate Academy

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  padgateacademy

Principal: Mrs M Barclay Bsc (Hons) NPQH

Ref: MBA/SLE

Monday, 01 March 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

As you know, the Government have published a series of guidelines to allow us to open the Academy to all students from Monday 8th March. We are looking forward to having the Academy community back together, but we have taken a number of steps to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. The safety of our students, staff and school community has been our number one priority whilst preparing the re-opening plan.

We continue to have a comprehensive cleaning plan in place with hand sanitising stations at the entrance and exit to each building. Every classroom also has supplies of hand sanitizer and cleaning equipment.

We have a comprehensive opening plan available on our website, including a risk assessment, which is available by visiting <https://padgateacademy.co.uk/coronavirus-information>.

## Return to the Academy

As you will have seen in the media, all students with consent will be offered a COVID-19 lateral flow test in the Academy three times over their first two weeks back. The initial test will take place on their first arrival back at the Academy, with tests two and three taking place during the Academy day. The fourth and subsequent tests will be completed at home using lateral flow kits. I will write to you with more detail regarding the home testing process once the kits are available to distribute.

For us to complete the initial test, we have staggered the return to the Academy and will invite each year group to attend from a dedicated time as detailed on the next page. Please can students arrive at the Leisure Centre entrance where they will be met by their Pastoral Leader and a member of SLT.

Students who are not being tested will proceed to their normal timetabled lesson. Students with consent will be offered a test and will then make their way to their normal timetabled lesson once they have tested negative for COVID-19. Any students who have been attending as part of the 'critical worker and vulnerable' group need to arrive with their year group.

Please only send your child back to the Academy at their allocated time.



### Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Year 11</b>                            | Arrive at the academy at 8:30am - Leisure Centre Entrance  |
| <b>Year 10</b>                            | Arrive at the Academy at 10:55am - Leisure Centre Entrance   |
| <b>Year 9</b>                             | Remain at home for online learning   |
| <b>Year 8</b>                             | Remain at home for online learning   |
| <b>Year 7</b>                             | Remain at home for online learning   |
| <b>Critical Worker / Vulnerable Group</b> | Students in year 7, 8 and 9 who have been attending as part of the 'critical worker and vulnerable' group arrive at 8:30am |

### Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Year 11</b>                            | Normal school day - Arrive at normal bubble entrance at 8:30am   |
| <b>Year 10</b>                            | Normal school day - Arrive at normal bubble entrance at 8:30am   |
| <b>Year 9</b>                             | Arrive at the academy at 8:30am - Leisure Centre entrance  |
| <b>Year 8</b>                             | Arrive at the Academy at 10:55am - Leisure Centre Entrance   |
| <b>Year 7</b>                             | Remain at home for online learning   |
| <b>Critical Worker / Vulnerable Group</b> | Students in year 7, 8 and 9 who have been attending as part of the 'critical worker and vulnerable' group arrive at 8:30am |

### Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Year 11</b> | Normal school day - Arrive at normal bubble entrance at 8:30am |
| <b>Year 10</b> | Normal school day - Arrive at normal bubble entrance at 8:30am |
| <b>Year 9</b>  | Normal school day - Arrive at normal bubble entrance at 8:30am |
| <b>Year 8</b>  | Normal school day - Arrive at normal bubble entrance at 8:30am |
| <b>Year 7</b>  | Arrive at the academy at 8:30am - Leisure Centre Entrance      |

### Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Normal running of the Academy resumes,  
**All students arrive onsite at 8:30am** at their Normal Bubble Entrance.



## Face coverings

Current government advice for students and staff is to that face coverings must be worn in school where they are unable to socially distance, this now includes in classrooms during lessons, as well as in corridors and communal areas. Face coverings should be worn if your child uses public transport to and from the Academy.

We recognise that this adds an additional cost for families and has a considerable impact on the environment. I have purchased two washable face covering for every student in the Academy and these will be distributed on the first day that they return.

A face covering will be added to the uniform expectations list. Students must now arrive to school with either their school face covering or one of their own. If a student does not have one then we will have a small number available in school to provide students, but they will be issued with a sanction as per the uniform policy.

I recognise that a few students have a medical exemption which means they are unable to wear a face covering and we will continue to support students with this through issuing a 'face covering pass' through their Head of Learning.

## Visitors

Visitors will not be allowed on-site (which includes parents) unless it is deemed to be absolutely essential and this will usually be at the end of the school day and for pre-arranged appointments only. Unless otherwise advised, please contact the academy via telephone or e-mail.

## Zones and Student Groupings

Students will return in their "year group bubbles" so that the risk of infection and spread of COVID-19 is reduced. At the start of the Academic year, each year group were allocated a zone in the school in where they receive most of their teaching - students will return to the same bubble zone that they were previously using.

Students only need to move to specialist classrooms, such as Technology, Science and Art and this is done under staff supervision. Each year group has been allocated a specific area in the school for breaks and lunchtimes, where they will only encounter students from their bubble (year group).

These measures are aimed at reducing movement around the school building and reducing the risk of students mixing with students from other year groups.

Year groups have a designated entrance and exit route to the school building so that we minimise any contact between students in different year groups. It is essential that students only use these designated routes and that parents never enter the school site (including the car park, which remains closed to visitors).

The Academy continues to operate a one-way system to minimise contact on corridors.



Please refer to the full re-opening document on our website (available by visiting <https://padgateacademy.co.uk/coronavirus-information>) for timings of the school day, year group entry/exit gates and doors, teaching zones and break/lunch zones.

It is essential that students must arrive to the Academy on time at their designated entrance and must be onsite between 08:30 and 08:35 am.

## Curriculum

All students will continue to have their full curriculum entitlement. This means they will continue to study a broad and balanced curriculum, including the subjects they have opted for at Key Stage 4.

Students will continue to have their full entitlement of PE lessons; however, we will not be using the changing facilities onsite. On the days that students have PE scheduled on their timetable; they should come to school in their official Padgate Academy PE kit.

## Uniform and equipment

As ever we will continue to insist upon the highest standards of uniform. We politely request your continued support in maintaining the school uniform and appearance policy, particularly when it comes to acceptable shoes and hair. Students must ensure that any false nails are removed and extreme hair styles or colours are restored to normal ahead of their arrival back at the Academy. A full uniform list can be found on our website here: <https://padgateacademy.co.uk/uniform-policy>.

Please check the website to the suitability of a shoe, hair style or indeed any item of uniform or general presentation.

Please can I also make you aware that as of March 2021, hoodies will no longer be allowed to be worn in the academy, full zip version or not. We encourage all students to come to school in a coat, especially during the colder months. Any hoodies will be confiscated by members of staff and returned to students the end of the school day.

Please see below for guidance:





For your child to be fully equipped for school I would ask all students to bring in their own equipment including pen, pencil and ruler. Students will be expected to have a suitable school bag.

I am aware that there is a huge amount of information contained in this letter but please be reassured that we have taken every possible measure to ensure the health and safety of all staff and students.

I am looking forward to seeing the Academy busy and full of students again as they all return next week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Barclay  
Principal