

26th August 2021

I hope you and your family are safe and well and have had a lovely summer together. We are now looking forward to the start of another exciting and successful year at JQA. You may have heard of the government's requirements for all students to complete two Covid-19 tests during their return to school so that all students and staff can return to the Academy safely. Staff will be completing their lateral flow tests on Sunday 29th August and Wednesday 1st September as part of their usual rhythm of testing at home ahead of returning for two training days on Thursday 2nd September.

Arrangements for Covid-19 Testing for Students:

On Friday 3rd September, students should arrive in non-uniform at the Pope St entrance of the Academy to complete a lateral flow test in our Seacole Centre at the following times:

Year 7 – 9.00-9.30

Year 8 – 10.00 – 10.30

Year 9 – 11.00 – 11.30

Year 10 – 13.00 – 13.30

Year 11 – 14.00 – 14.30

The tests are self-administered using the very familiar kit, with clear instructions and staff on hand to guide as appropriate. A second lateral flow test will be offered in tutor time on Wednesday 8th September. Students are by now very accustomed to doing their swabs as part of the lateral flow tests and if we all arrive within the above time-slots the process will be very smooth. Parents/carers will only be notified if the lateral flow test returns a positive result and will be telephoned to be advised of the next steps.

Special Arrangements For Students Returning To The Academy on Monday 6th September:

Firstly, thank you for your blazer order – we are hoping to distribute these early in the new term, pending a delivery from our suppliers. [All students should arrive on Monday in full uniform and with full equipment](#) (which will be checked) **with students in years 8-11 wearing their current blazer**. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students and their proud parents seeing them off at the gate on Albion St. Students should arrive at the following times on Monday 6th September:

Year 7 - 8.15-8.35 via main entrance on Albion St, mustering on raised deck (line up on Raised Deck at 8.35)

Year 10 - 8.45 - 9.00 via Pope St, mustering in football zone (line-up in football zone at 9.00)

Year 11 - 9.15- 9.30 via Pope St, mustering in hatch (line up outside Hatch and escorted to 2nd floor)

Year 9 - 10.30-10.45 via Pope St, mustering in hatch (line up outside in quad outside hatch at 10.45) - lunch in refectory at 12.20

Year 8 - 11.30-11.45 via main entrance on Albion St, mustering in refectory (line up outside at 11.45)

Students will be welcomed warmly by staff and a day of induction and activities to prepare them for the year ahead are planned with [their tutor and Head of Year](#), with pastoral staff walking students through key aspects of JQA life such as our routines and expectations of excellence in our custom-made exercise books. Students will be issued with a new planner and introduced to new staff who have joined our talented team through an assembly from me. We have invested significantly in high quality exercise books for our students and will expect the highest standards of work and presentation in them.

We're always looking to improve for our students and have also made some significant changes to the site over the summer – including the redevelopment of 'The Hatch' as a break/lunch space and two new classrooms and a library in our new 'Equiano Centre'. Our astroturf is likely to also be completed in Autumn.

Your child will be issued with two forms for you to complete on Monday evening: our Home School Collaboration Agreement and a sign-up form for Birmingham Libraries. It is important these are returned on Tuesday 7th September.

Tuesday 7th September – students arrive at the usual time

On Tuesday 7th September, students will have an assembly with their Head of Year and start their journey to develop their character around our CORE values over the year ahead. [Students should arrive at their normal time, through their designated entrance](#). You'll notice we start 5 minutes later at 8.35 and it's important students time their journey to arrive between 8.15-8.35. We have also made break and lunch slightly longer to afford more time for socialising and sport – things students may have missed out on during the pandemic.

We have, of course, retained key measures such as separation to enable distancing in corridors, ventilation and promoting frequent hand washing and are ready to 'step up' measures if the local situation requires it. Last year, we managed to minimise bubble closures due to our robust measures and your support – you can read our [updated risk assessment](#) and [clear outbreak management plan](#) and be confident we are accomplished and adept at ensuring learning disruption is minimised.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your incredible support last year and we look forward together to another year working together to ensure all our children succeed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Barton

Head of School