



12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The School Day

Following the successful return of all students, I am pleased to confirm we are now able to return to previous start and end times for all students **from Monday 15th March**. All students should now arrive for an 8.30am start, with the school day ending at 3pm.

At the start of the day the school gates will open at 8.20am. Students will assemble in their designated year group recreational zones *within the school site*. Students will continue to access the site at separate gates to allow us to continue to operate year group 'bubbles'. At 8.30am students will line up with their tutor group (as they currently do) and will be escorted to their tutor base by their tutor. Students will remain in year group 'bubbles' at break, lunchtime and during lessons with teachers continuing to move between year group zones.

Lincoln Castle Academy students are very familiar with the control measures in place and have responded maturely and respectfully to the requirement to wear masks indoors. This latest small adjustment aims to reduce congestion outside the school gates whilst ensuring all students receive their full teaching entitlement. Please continue to reinforce the importance of social distancing on the journey to and from the academy to your child.

Traffic

As our school continues to grow, the volume of traffic at the end of the school day must be managed to ensure students' safety. Please do not use the disabled parking bays unless eligible to do so and do not park on the double yellow lines near the school gates to drop or collect your child. This makes it harder for students to cross the road safely, blocking their view of oncoming traffic. By parking in an unsafe place, cars also hinder the flow of traffic in the one-way system. This reminder has also been sent to our transport providers, including taxis.

Student home-test kits

After three Covid-19 tests in school, students who have consent will be issued with test kits to complete their twice weekly testing **at home**. There are 3 tests in a kit and all students will be issued with their kit via their tutor on the morning of their last test in school. Students will sign for their kit on receipt. Students are asked to test themselves twice a week, on a Sunday evening and a Wednesday evening, in line with the times academy staff are also testing at home.

Included in each kit is a 'How to' guide – please read this thoroughly prior to testing. You will also be sent a **quick link** to record your child's results; we are required to collect test result even if your child tests negative. If your child receives a void result, please re-test and inform the school so that additional tests can be provided. Please ensure that your child's result is logged with the NHS Test and Trace service as per the instructions in the leaflet.

Should your child return a positive result with a home testing LFT kit, it is vital that you share this result as a matter of urgency, telephoning (01522 529203) or emailing the academy office enquiries@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk. This will allow us to undertake close contact tracing and reduce potential transmission. Please also log the result on the NHS Test and Trace service.

Due to revised Public Health England guidance, any pupil who returns a positive result using a home test kit, must book a confirmatory PCR test at an official testing centre. Should this result also confirm the positive result from the home test, students will need to undertake the 10-day isolation period. However, if the PCR returns a negative result, this overrides the home test kit result, and therefore where this applies a student will be able to return to school.

Since testing all students and staff in March, only 1 individual has tested positive with no need for others to self-isolate owing to our phased return. I appreciate these arrangements inconvenienced parents and thank you for your cooperation and support to ensure a safe return for all.

It has been absolutely delightful to welcome your children back into the academy this week. We are excited about the term ahead and all that we plan to achieve now our academy is again alive with learning and laughter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Laming
Headteacher