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05 January 2022

RE: Start of Term letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the start of the Spring Term. May I wish you all a Happy New Year, and I hope that you had an enjoyable holiday period.

During the holiday period I received several notifications from the Department for Education regarding the ongoing situation with Covid-19. You may have seen some of these on the news, but I would like to clarify and update you on the impact of these decisions for the school community. Firstly, with immediate effect face coverings are to be worn in classrooms, in addition to all communal areas by all students and staff, unless they are medically exempt. This advice is short term only, to support students and teachers as they return to school this term. The proposed changes will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point they will be reviewed. We would ask you to ensure your child/children attend school with their own face covering. We do have a limited supply to distribute should any student misplace their own. Please view information here from the World Health Organisation about children and mask wearing: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Children and masks \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-children-and-mask-wearing)

Secondly, there are changes to the 10-day period of self-isolation, as announced nationally on 22nd December. If a student or member of staff tests positive for Covid then they may now return to school on day 8, if they have tested negative using an LFT on both day 6 and day 7 and are showing no symptoms. If for any reason they are unable to test, then they should still complete the full 10 day isolation period. We would ask you to communicate clearly with our school office team to keep them informed of any Covid-related absence and subsequent return to school. If this is the case, parents/carers are expected to call 0121 729 7310 and press Option 2 for the Attendance Officer (Mrs Bhamra) leaving a message if the line is busy. Communication is key to keeping our Academy as 'covid-free' as possible.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the plans for the return to school this week. As mentioned prior to the holiday, we are required to conduct on-site testing, which does impact on the normal timetable this week. Arrangements for testing at Arena Academy on Wednesday 5th January are detailed below. Students are to come in at the time allocated wearing a face mask. As in previous practice, lessons/tasks will be provided on Teams for all students on Wednesday 5th January, please encourage your child to engage with tasks/lessons when not attending school for testing. A guide on how to access MS Teams is available on our website under the parent section and attached to this letter. All students will return to school, at normal time, on Thursday 6th January.

Sports Hall		
11KBL	05/01/2022	08:00 - 08:25
11SCO	05/01/2022	08:25-08:50
11SNA	05/01/2022	08:50 - 09:15
11LSE	05/01/2022	09:15 - 09:40
11CFI	05/01/2022	09:40 - 10:05
11KJO	05/01/2022	10:05 - 10:30
break		10:30 - 10:45
10HKA	05/01/2022	10:45 - 11:05
10CHS	05/01/2022	11:05 - 11:30
10JDH	05/01/2022	11:30 -11:55
10PCA	05/01/2022	11:55 - 12:20
lunch		12:20 - 13:00
10SFE	05/01/2022	13:00 - 13:25
10ARA	05/01/2022	13:25 - 13:50
9SVA	05/01/2022	13:50 - 14:15
9HCU	05/01/2022	14:15 - 14:40
9GSK	05/01/2022	14:40 - 15:05
7MAM	05/01/2022	15:05 - 15:30
7JLA	05/01/2022	15:05 - 15:30
7MHA	05/01/2022	15:30 - 15: 50

Gym		
9LAM	05/01/2022	08:00 - 08:25
9HNE	05/01/2022	08:25-08:50
9FBE	05/01/2022	08:50 - 09:15
9GBI	05/01/2022	09:15 - 09:40
9FEI	05/01/2022	09:40 - 10:05
8HBR	05/01/2022	10:05 - 10:30
break		10:30 - 10:45
8FTI	05/01/2022	10:45 - 11:05
8MLO	05/01/2022	11:05 - 11:30
8MIS	05/01/2022	11:30 -11:55
8CLY	05/01/2022	11:55 - 12:20
lunch		12:20 - 13:00
8NYE	05/01/2022	13:00 - 13:25
8DZS	05/01/2022	13:25 - 13:50
8LFR	05/01/2022	13:50 - 14:15
7KRW	05/01/2022	14:15 - 14:40
7HMY	05/01/2022	14:40 - 15:05
7RSI	05/01/2022	15:05 - 15:30
7DSA	05/01/2022	15:05 - 15:30

We look forward to welcoming our wonderful students back to Arena Academy for the start of an exciting new term ahead.



R Mann
Headteacher