



Ark Kings Academy  
Secondary Phase  
Principal: Roger Punton

## Year 8 return to school

Dear parent/carer,

We are pleased that, following the Government's guidance, we can begin to welcome our pupils back into our school building. This letter outlines our plans and expectations.

**Please to read this letter in full and share the information with your child**

We are following the Government guidance and are putting in place a lot of work to make school as safe as possible for our students and staff when they all return. We strongly recommend that all pupils take part in the lateral flow testing programme.

### Year 8 - Important Dates

#### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

All year 8 pupils remain at home and follow their remote learning timetable.

#### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Children taking part in the lateral flow testing programme** should attend school **between 8:30am and 12:00pm** for their first lateral flow test. Your child will then return home following their test and they will follow their remote learning timetable. You must give consent prior to your child attending school by completing [this Consent Form](#).

**Children not taking part in the lateral flow testing programme must remain** at home and follow their remote learning timetable.

#### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

All year 8 pupils remain at home and follow their remote learning timetable.

#### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

All pupils^ return to school. Gates will open at 8am and will close at 8.25am.

^If your child has a positive result you will be contacted by a member of staff and your child will need to book an online PCR test <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and isolate for 10 days with all members of the household. If you do not receive a phone call from school, please send your child into school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Your child will then have 2 further onsite Lateral flow tests (for those who have consented) on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 17<sup>h</sup> March. This will be during the school day.

On **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** your child will be issued with a home testing kit containing 7 tests and instructions on how to test. You will need to inform NHS and school of the result by completing the attached form: [Test Results Form](#)

## **Key information and FAQs**

### **Will pupils be required to wear face masks when they return to school?**

Masks are a simple but effective barrier to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Secondary staff and students must wear face coverings inside the school in spaces where social distancing (2m) cannot be maintained. This includes corridors and communal spaces as well as inside classrooms. Face masks must cover the mouth and nose. When teachers teach at the front of the class and are 2m from students, they (the teachers) do not need to wear a face covering.

A very small number of pupils and/or staff may be exempt due to medical reasons. If your child has a medical exception, please contact your child's Student Support Manager to discuss further.

### **Do we need to provide our own masks?**

Your child will need to wear their own masks when traveling to and from school. Once at school, we will provide a daily disposable mask free of charge.

### **What do I do if my child is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) or Clinically Vulnerable (CV)?**

If your child is unable to attend school due to clinical advice (those classified as CEV or on the Shielding Patient List), they will be able to continue their learning remotely. Can you please also email us with a copy of your child's shielding letter to [info@arkkingsacademy.org](mailto:info@arkkingsacademy.org)

Any student who lives with someone classified as CEV is expected to return to school, as are all students classified as CV or living with someone who is CEV or CV.

### **Will pupils continue to be in bubbles?**

As before, year groups will operate as bubbles, and the mixing of bubbles will be restricted as much as possible. Teachers will maintain a social distance from students and classrooms are arranged to minimise contact between students. Teachers and support staff will be moving around the school building in order to deliver our curriculum and to minimise the movement students need to make around the school. All of the details can be viewed in our whole school Risk Assessment found on our website. [www.arkkingsacademy.org](http://www.arkkingsacademy.org)

### **How will the school ensure the site is clean and safe?**

We will continue to ensure students have regular handwashing opportunities: before and after eating, after breaks and when in changing rooms. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that children wash their hands often. The

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school has enhanced cleaning arrangements, and frequently touched surfaces, items, and toilets are on a strict cleaning rota.

### **Which entrance should my child use?**

Year 8 pupils will continue to use the main entrance path and they will line-up in the courtyard.

### **Can my child travel on public transport?**

Students should walk or cycle to and from school wherever possible. If using public transport, they must follow current government guidance and wearing face coverings and leave extra time as there may be a reduction in services. Pupils should maintain social distancing on public transport and sanitise their hands before getting on the bus, when they get off the bus and after touching any surface on the bus.

### **Can my child buy food at breaktime?**

Our before school breakfast club is currently suspended but we will be providing your child a free bagel at breaktime.

Break and lunchtimes are staggered to allow 1 bubble at a time to use the dining hall and outdoor facilities. This will prevent children from mixing with others from outside their bubble.

### **Will pupils still take part in PE and sport?**

Students will resume taking part in PE and sport; however, contact sports will not be permitted, and we will try to hold most sporting activities outside (where possible).

### **Will there be any after school activities?**

We will re-establish after-school provision after Easter and will send out more details nearer the time.

### **Will there be any school trips?**

There will be no trips or educational visits at this time. We will continue to review this.

### **Does my child need to wear their uniform?**

Pupils are expected to wear their full uniform every day and comply with our uniform standards found on our website. **Please ensure that pupils try on their uniform in advance of coming back to school to ensure that damaged, lost or items which are now too small can be replaced in advance of pupils returning to school.**

### **Does my child need to attend school every day?**

School attendance will be compulsory, and parents/careers who do not send their children to school may face fines.

## How will you keep me updated?

We will continue to engage with you via letters, emails, and virtual meetings and welcome your feedback. We are operating an appointment only system for essential visitors only. This is to reduce the number of people onsite.

*This has been a very unsettling time for everyone. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. If you need any further information, please get in touch on 0121 459 4451 or at [info@arkkingsacademy.org](mailto:info@arkkingsacademy.org). You may also send us a private message through our Facebook page.*

Thank you for your continued support. Together we will help to make our school an even safer place and ensure continuity of education for all our students.

Yours sincerely



Roger Puntton  
Principal