

26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Update on re-opening

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to inform you of our plans to reopen Don Valley Academy to all our students for face to face teaching. In order to ensure we do this as safely as possible we will be phasing the students into school on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th March. We will send you/your child an invitation letter specifying the designated date and time for them to arrive to the Academy.

On the first day of their return, students **must arrive via the Stonehill Rise entrance** where they will be taken to the sports centre for a Lateral Flow Test. We ask that students please arrive on or as near as possible to their designated start time. Students should not arrive early to the Academy.

We strongly encourage all students to take a Lateral Flow Test as per Government guidance. Students will be offered three on-site tests, which are spaced 3 to 5 days apart on their return. Once they have been tested three times at school they will be provided with test kits which should be conducted at home. Further details about home testing will follow.

You will already have received detailed information about the **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students and staff** which was sent to all parents/carers yesterday. Please read this information carefully and to give consent for your child to participate in the 'Lateral Flow' testing please click link: <https://bit.ly/DVA-CovidTestStudent>. We believe that this is paramount to keeping our Academy as safe as possible for everyone.

Once students have been tested they will be directed to their learning bubble to start their timetabled lessons.

Please note: once students have taken their first Lateral Flow Test on their first day of return, they should then arrive and leave at the Academy, using their normal year group entrance, at the times stated overleaf.

In summary the schedule for the week is as follows:

- Monday 8th March Students in Year 11, Year 10 and Year 9 return to the Academy at the designated time. **All students to arrive at Stonehill Rise entrance.**
- Tuesday 9th March Students in Year 7 and Year 8 return to the Academy at the designated time. **All students to arrive at Stonehill Rise entrance.**
- Wednesday 10th March Students in Year 13 return to the Academy at the designated time. **All students to arrive at Stonehill Rise entrance.**
- Thursday 11th March Normal day for all students
- Friday 12th March Normal day for all students

COVID-19 Safety

- Face coverings – Worn by students in classrooms, when moving around the Academy, outside of classrooms such as in corridors and communal areas. **The Academy will purchase a further two masks for all students in their allocated Academy colour and these will be given to students on arrival;** please ensure your child has a face covering to wear as they make their journey to the Academy.
- Year group zones – Year groups will remain in their own ‘bubbles’ and will not mix with other year groups in the Academy. Students will also be encouraged to keep their distance within groups and limit interaction, sharing of rooms and social spaces between groups as much as possible.
- The Government has recommended that all schools continue to adjust their start and finish times to reduce potential overlap between year groups. Therefore, the start and finish times for each year group will continue as the following, **with the exception of their first day back.**

Year Group	Arrival and Finish Times	Entrance
Year 11	8:20 – 2:25	Stonehill Rise
Year 10	8:20 – 2:25	Jossey Lane
Year 9	8:40 – 2:45	Jossey Lane
Year 8	8:40 – 2:45	Stonehill Rise
Year 7	8:30 – 2:35	Stonehill Rise

There has been a considerable amount of work completed by the Academy so we can open for all students safely, therefore I would appreciate it if all parents can continue to support the Academy to ensure all students are safe, equipped and ready to learn.

- Students will need to bring their own bag which must include their planner, and all equipment including a pen, pencil and ruler.
- All students will be expected to wear full Academy uniform including full Academy PE kit. For further clarification on this please refer to the uniform section on our website. Please contact your child’s Learning Manager for any support you may require prior to the reopening of the Academy.

We will be posting regular updates and information via the school gateway app, on our website (www.donvalleyacademy.org.uk) and twitter page (@DeltaDonValley). You can register for an account on the school gateway website www.schoolgateway.com where you will be able to view the desktop version. Alternatively, you may wish to download the free smartphone app - available on Apple and Android supported devices. Just search for and install “schoolgateway” from your app store. All you need to register is the e-mail address and mobile number that we have on record for you.

I am very proud of the determination and resilience shown by both students and staff in delivering outstanding teaching and learning in many new and innovative ways. This has been possible because of the unswerving support of parents, carers and the wider school community and I am grateful that our Academy is part of such a positive and supportive community.

We are all looking forward to getting back to as close to ‘normal’ as we can be in March and doing what we do best, face to face teaching.

Yours sincerely
H Thornton
Mrs H Thornton
Principal