



# Ark John Keats Academy

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear families,

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break. We are spending the next two days in staff training before our test centre opens on Friday and Monday, and we are excited to welcome Year 7 and 12 pupils back to school on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** for their first day of the new school year, and Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 pupils back to school on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. All pupils should arrive before **8:25am**.

Schools have been asked to screen all pupils for COVID-19 before they return to school. Your child will need to attend school in uniform with a pencil case and bag on the day below. Your child should attend whether they have consented or not as important information will be given to pupils on this day. Please see the specific arrival time for your child here. They will be only be in school for approximately 90 minutes before being dismissed and will not return to school until their induction (date above).

	First test
Year 7	Friday 3rd (8.30am-11.30am)
Year 8	Tuesday 7th (12.30pm-3.30pm)
Year 9	Tuesday 7th (8.30am-11.30am)
Year 10	Monday 6th (12.30pm-3.30pm)
Year 11	Monday 6th (8.30am-11.30am)
Year 12	Friday 3rd (12.30pm-3.30pm)
Year 13	Friday 3rd (12.30pm-3.30pm)

I will now go through some of the COVID-19 arrangements we will have in place at the start of the new autumn term. The key changes are:

## Bubbles

We will no longer have to operate bubbles in the new term, which means that assemblies and larger group activities can resume and students from different classes and year groups will be able to mix.

## Face coverings

The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on school premises. However, they recommend that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not usually meet. This includes public transport. We appreciate that some staff and students may wish to wear face masks at school, and they can do so if they want to.

## Close contact tracing

Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19, and this will be led by NHS Test and Trace.

From 16<sup>th</sup> August, children under 18 years old identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive will not need to self-isolate and will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test. Children aged 18 years old will be treated as a child until four months after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and will then be treated as an adult.

## Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak at the school or in the local area, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support NHS Test and Trace with close contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, we will communicate this to you.

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**Principal:** Jo Facer  
**Primary Headteacher:** Mide Ola-Said



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## **COVID-19 testing**

Testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school community. We will continue to encourage staff and students to take rapid lateral flow tests twice a week during term-time and the holidays if staff are on site. Please support keeping our school community safe by ensuring your child undertakes two

## **Isolating if travelling from abroad**

Keep in mind that you and your family may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. You should plan your trip so that any self-isolation should also fall within the school holidays.

The government can change the red, amber, green classification of countries on short notice. You will need to respond to the latest rules on international travel, even if you have already left the UK, while also minimising the impact on your child's education. You can find out more about the travel rules here: [www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england).

Where possible, we will provide remote education for students unable to return from abroad due to COVID-19 travel restrictions while they are abroad.

## **Staying safe**

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If you are worried about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk> or by phoning 111. There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19, do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

We will continue to ensure students have regular handwashing opportunities: before and after eating, after breaks, changing rooms etc. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that children wash their hands often. The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.

I hope this letter offers reassurance to the measures we are keeping in place to ensure a safe start to the autumn term.

We all recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that everyone has had to make, so we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

Yours sincerely,

Ms J. Facer  
Principal

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