



24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely half term. I am very pleased to be writing to you following the Prime Minister's announcement this week that all students will be allowed to return to school on Monday 8th March. I know that this news will be greatly welcomed by parents, students and staff alike and I would like to thank you for your incredible support since January with our home learning programme.

We should all be reassured and encouraged that the scientific and medical experts have concluded that all children can now return to school. It is so important to get students back into lessons before the Easter holidays so we can continue to build the momentum of the academic year and return to some normality.

We must, of course, remain vigilant and continue to follow the guidelines that have become so routine across the school this year. Thus, social distancing will remain in place, face coverings must be worn (unless exempt) indoors where social distancing cannot be maintained (including in classrooms) and students will stay in their bubbles and self-isolate should they be in close contact with someone who tests positive for the virus.

We now have the additional benefit of being able to test students for Covid-19 when they return to school. In doing so, we can ensure we have no positive cases by identifying those who need to self-isolate before returning. In line with Government guidance, we will test students three times in the first two weeks of their return. This testing requires parental consent so, whether you wish to consent or not, **please complete this form:**

[CLICK HERE TO LET US KNOW WHETHER YOU GIVE CONSENT FOR YOUR CHILD TO BE TESTED](#)

(Further details of the process and FAQs are linked in the form.)

The more families who consent to testing, the better we can protect the whole school community. Following the on-site testing we will be able to offer all students home-test kits and will provide more information about this in due course.

We will have a staggered start for all students, including any that do not consent to testing, and the timetable for this is as follows:

Monday 8th March – Years 8-12

Students will come in for their first test and to receive key information before returning home. We anticipate your child being in school for 2-3 hours and they must arrive at the allocated time below:

- Year 8 – 8:30am
- Year 9 – 10:30am
- Year 10 – 12:30pm
- Year 11 & 12 – 2:00pm

Year 7 will have a full day of home learning; Years 8-12 will have half a day of home learning for the time they are not in school.



The Totteridge Academy

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Tuesday 9th March – All Years 8:40am

Years 8-12 will begin their normal timetable. Year 7 will receive their test and key information from 8:40am and then begin their normal lessons from Period 3.

I am aware that students have not been in school for a significant amount of time so **please check that your child's uniform still fits and is looking perfect**; our usual high expectations and clear uniform policy will be in place from the very start of their return.

If your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste and smell) please do not send them to school or for their asymptomatic testing but go to the dedicated NHS 111 Covid-19 site, <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>, for details of what you need to do.

Over the next week and a half, our home learning programme will continue in full. Each day is vital for your child's education, so it is very important that all students continue to work hard and keep up with their lessons online.

We very much look forward to welcoming students back to school and thank you again for your phenomenal and ongoing support.

With best wishes,

Chris Fairbairn

Principal: Chris Fairbairn

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Registered address: United Learning, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 6SB.

The Totteridge Academy, Barnet Lane, London N20 8AZ

t 020 8445 9205 f 020 8343 5437

e office@tta.org.uk

www.thetotteridgeacademy.org.uk