



# Lime Academy Forest Approach

*Putting Children First*

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware following the recent Government announcement, schools will reopen for all pupils from March 8th 2021. This directive applies to all schools, including special schools.

It is mandatory for children to be back at school from 8th March and your child will be regarded as absent if not attending by that date.

The reopening of education settings to all is being prioritised due to the significant and proven negative impact, caused by pupils being out of school, to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of children and young people.

As such, remote learning will cease for all students from 8th March, with the exception of those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV). For these pupils, learning will continue via Google classroom, and those involved will receive more information shortly.

School is a very safe place and we have updated our COVID 19 risk assessments, which you are able to view on our website. We have strengthened existing protective measures in school, in line with DfE guidance, for adults and students (where possible) in year 7 and above to wear face coverings in all indoor settings, including classrooms as an extra temporary precaution.

Secondary students, Year 7 and above who are able to take the COVID-19 tests will be able to do so. From 3rd March 2021 you will be able to collect rapid tests, for pupils to use twice a week at home. These will be available for collection from the school office between 10:30-11:45am and 1pm – 2pm. The government guideline states *“Testing is voluntary and no child or young person will be tested unless informed consent has been given by the appropriate person.”*

These tests help to identify asymptomatic cases and are to be completed at home. The first test to be taken on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March and then on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. We ask that going forwards, tests be completed on Sundays and Wednesdays, each week, until further notice. The kits have instructions for use inside and contain enough tests for 3 weeks. You will be able to collect more from school after this time.

If you require any support with testing, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please remember *“testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.”*

We are delighted to be able to have our students back and we all look forward to seeing your child back in school on 8th March. If there are any challenges that you feel that you may face in your child returning to school, that we may be able to support with, please let us know by calling the main office.

Yours faithfully

Mary Bickmore

Head Teacher