



Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy

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Principal: Matthew Toothe

18th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Year 11 Results, Asymptomatic Testing of Students, and Start of Term Arrangements

I hope that you and your families are well and have managed to enjoy some rest over the summer.

Year 11 Results

I am very pleased to share the news with you that Year 11 achieved phenomenal and, in many subjects, record breaking results this year. The results are a testament to their resilience and effort. They have bright futures ahead of them and I wish them all the best as they move onto their next steps. I am sure you will join staff in offering huge congratulations to them all. Further details about the results can be found on the academy's website in the section entitled *About Us* and the sub-section *Academic Performance*.

Asymptomatic Testing of Students

I would like to thank all of you who have continued to encourage your children to undertake asymptomatic testing, twice weekly, during the summer break. In its road map to step 4, the government has announced that asymptomatic testing should be made available to students at the start of the new academic year.

As part of our effort to support the government in managing the pandemic, and in line with their advice, we have carefully considered all statutory requirements and concluded that the safest way for our students to undertake asymptomatic testing will be for them to test at home. This will mean that should any student test positive using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) fellow students and staff are not placed at risk. To this end, we will make testing kits available for collection from Reception on Tuesday 31st August between 14:00 and 16:00 and we encourage you to support your child in undertaking two tests, 3-5 days apart, prior to their return to the academy. Alternatively, you may still have some LFDs left from the ones we distributed on the last day of term, or you may prefer to order LFDs to be delivered to your home, or find out where you may collect LFDs from a location closer to your home using the following website <https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site>.

Should your child test positive using the LFD they must not return to the academy, and in line with guidance, following a positive result from a LFD test, they must undertake a PCR test to ratify the result. If the PCR test result is negative they may return to the academy, as normal. Should your child receive a positive PCR result they, and any member of the household who is aged 18 or over and has not received two vaccinations, must isolate for 10 days from the date of the PCR test. As always, the safety and welfare of students and staff is our utmost priority, and we recognise the need to minimise any disruption to the start of the academic year, your child's education, and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing.

Following a LFD test, you must report your child's test results even if the result is negative or void. Reporting results is easy. Go to [report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline.

The government's advice is that testing twice weekly is helping us stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools and colleges are advised to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus; the government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation and we will update you with any changes.

Start of Term Arrangements

Following the publication of the academy's Newsletter, in which I outlined the planned arrangements for students return in September, I am pleased to confirm that there have been no significant further changes to '*Schools COVID-19 operational guidance*'. This means, as per the Newsletter, there will no longer be year group bubbles and nor will we be operating a staggered start and split break. The academy day will start at 08:20 (all students must be one site by 08:15) and will end at 16:20 (Monday-Wednesday) and 15:25 (Thursday-Friday). The academy will no longer be responsible for identifying close contacts in the event of a confirmed case and face coverings will not be recommended for students or staff.

If there are any further changes or updates then I will, of course, communicate these to you before the start of term. If there are no changes or updates then my next communication with you will not be until the new academic year; I hope your children continue to enjoy the break and I look forward to welcoming them back:

Year 7 start on Friday, 3rd September 2021

Year 10 return on Monday, 6th September 2021

Years 8, 9 and 11 return on Tuesday, 7th September 2021

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Toothe
Principal