



Date: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Our Ref: MAS

Reply to: Mark Smith

At: Waterleat Road Centre

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Waterleat Road,  
Paignton TQ3 3WA

T: 01803 403005

F: 01803 403006

E: wrdadmin@paigntonacademy.org

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## COVID Update

Dear Parent/Guardian

[www.paigntonacademy.org](http://www.paigntonacademy.org)

As we arrive at the end of another eventful week I would like to provide you with an update.

The government announced yesterday that the GCSE exams for Year 11 will not go ahead, this is obviously very upsetting, please be assured as more details are released we will do all we can to ensure students achieve the grades they deserve. It is **vitaly important** that Year 11 students continue to work hard, fully engage and attend all of the virtual lessons. The learning undertaken by Year 11 in the next few months is highly likely to impact on their final Centre Assessed Grades.

### Remote Learning

Schools were asked to start Remote Learning on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, however I took the decision to begin virtual lessons as soon as we could, as I believe the students have missed too much schooling already. We have already delivered over 1000 virtual lessons, the live lessons are going very well and staff are learning as we go and becoming far more effective and efficient. I have asked the Senor Leadership Team to join a sample of lessons to evaluate the quality of the delivery. If you need any help with remote learning, then please use the email address below.

[remote.learning@paigntonacademy.org](mailto:remote.learning@paigntonacademy.org)

### Attendance

We are expecting all students to engage with all of the online lessons, the students engagement has been well over 90% so far. The live lessons can be accessed through a variety of means, even a phone, Xbox or Playstation can access google classroom. Teaching staff are monitoring and recording attendance in every lesson, as we normally would. The only lessons we are not monitoring or delivering are core PE lessons. Please could you notify the school like you usually would via the attendance number or email if your child is ill or unable to take part in the online lessons that day, so we can update our attendance records and alert the teachers of the illnesses.

### FSM

If your child receives Free School Meals, we can provide 5 lunches each week until we have clarity on how Free School Meals will be managed, if you require the lunches, please book through the remote learning email address above and collect from reception between 12pm - 1pm. We would however, prefer to issue vouchers and send these out to all parents as this will support families more effectively. We will be working towards organising vouchers. I am

sorry to say that at present we have not had the relevant information of how the FSM vouchers will work and which system we will be using. My team are working on this, please bear with us.

## **Testing**

We have redeployed staff and put together a team to start testing all of our staff for Covid on a weekly basis. We would now like to start testing the students who are on site and eventually when we return to normal, as many students as possible. We commenced testing this week and recorded one positive result from a member of staff before any students came on site. The member of staff had this confirmed by the NHS testing station in Torquay. The member of staff who was in their early twenties had absolutely no symptoms and this highlights the importance of the new testing regime.

We have emailed home a link to gain your permission (this is on the website and also at the bottom of this letter) to test your son/daughter, which I would be grateful if you could complete as soon as possible. If you do not give your consent for your child to be tested, then please can you email the admin address below. The testing process is new so please find a FAQ below.

[wrdadmin@paigntonacademy.org](mailto:wrdadmin@paigntonacademy.org)

I would like to thank the enormous number of volunteers who replied to state they would be willing to help out, we will contact you in the next few weeks to sort out the relevant training to prepare for when all of our students return.

I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mark Smith

## **Link for consent to have students tested:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuwMIwLBUPOr8FYxPUewhdv-g955\\_R6lA5r05Gf026AZ\\_CUg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuwMIwLBUPOr8FYxPUewhdv-g955_R6lA5r05Gf026AZ_CUg/viewform)

## Track and Trace FAQ

**Where are the test centres?** The Sports Hall at Waterleat Road and the Arena at Borough Road have been converted into our test centres.

**Who runs it?** We have a team of competent Academy staff in each test centre - they have undertaken extensive online training.

**How does the test work?** The testing system involves the student administering the test themselves, using a cotton bud on a stick, they take a sample from the back of the throat and their nose.

**What supervision is there?** Students will be supervised by trained staff who will then process the test.

**How long does the test take?** It will take the students less than a minute to swab themselves and the staff gain the result of the test very quickly, within minutes.

**Does my child have to have a test?** No, they do not have to take a test, and can continue to attend school, however, students who are identified and asked to self-isolate, will either have to isolate at home for 10 days or can continue to attend the academy provided they take a test each morning.

**Have any staff opted out?** No, all of 250 Academy staff have completed the test and they will continue to do so every week. The benefits for conducting the test are very clear.

**Will students be tested on a regular basis?** The guidelines are that all students who are told to self-isolate should be tested every morning, in addition the school should initially test the students twice in a three day period – I have asked for further clarification on this.

**What happens to the results?** The test results are stored in the Academy and on a national data base.

**What is the maximum time it can take?** The result of the test is available within 30 minutes.

**Will I be informed of the result?** We will only contact students and parents if we receive a positive test.

### **Important please note:**

Students and staff are required to follow Government guidelines at all times and continue to do so, even if their test result is negative.

**Can parents come on site to be tested?** Unfortunately, at the moment the guidance is no. If it changes I will let you know.

**Who do I contact if I have queries?** Please email one of the test centre staff on:

[test.centrewrc@paigntonacademy.org](mailto:test.centrewrc@paigntonacademy.org)

[test.centrebrc@paigntonacademy.org](mailto:test.centrebrc@paigntonacademy.org)