



JBOSLO/BSM

25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, we are very excited to be welcoming all of our students back to TEMA on **Monday 8th March**. We know that you will have many questions about their return which will hopefully be answered within this letter. As ever, we will pass on details and information as soon as we receive this from the Government in their official guidance. Throughout the past year, we have seen that situations can change very quickly. Please rest assured that we aim to be as quick and responsive as possible in our planning to provide clarity and to be consistent for our students and families.

Return to School

- Students will be expected to return to school in full school uniform. Due to the need for COVID testing, practical PE lessons will be suspended for the first three weeks after returning and therefore, students do not need to wear their PE kit to school.
- Students will remain in their year group bubbles and enter through the same doors as before the school closure.
- We have adjusted timetables and class groupings to reduce movement between classrooms and minimise student contact on the corridors and all amended timetables will be issued on Monday 8th of March
- All students should bring **a bag, a pencil case and their own mask to school.**
- **In order to space student movement to their year corridors, Year 7 students will now need to arrive to school at 8.20am.** We expect all students to arrive on site by 8.15am to ensure that we can move students promptly to their year bases. It is imperative that students arrive on time to help ensure effective COVID safety.

COVID Safety Measures

The Government has introduced new COVID safety measures for all students in schools in England.

- **Masks or face coverings must now be worn in classrooms** as well as in communal areas. All students will be required to wear a mask unless they have a medical exemption for which families will need to provide evidence. Evidence of exemption needs to be emailed to covid@temac.co.uk. Your child will be provided with a sunflower lanyard on their return to school. Refusal to wear a face covering in school without authorised exemption will result in a sanction.
- The government have asked schools to carry out COVID testing. This programme is entirely voluntary and all students will return to the academy regardless of testing. We can not complete tests without full parental consent and after the first two weeks it is expected that parents complete these tests at home and report any results.
- You can complete the consent from here <https://tinyurl.com/ycr943wa>
- We require permission to carry out COVID testing on your child which can be given here: We will not be able to carry out COVID testing without your consent and children can not consent themselves. Consent must be returned to us by 11am on Tuesday 2nd of March so that we can plan appropriately.
- Students who are showing COVID symptoms or who have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID **need to isolate for ten days. Students should not come to school when showing COVID symptoms or if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive, or a member of their household is displaying symptoms.** It is vital for the safety of our school community that isolation periods are respected. When this is not the case, it can result in large numbers of students needing to be sent home to isolate.

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Punctuality

It is essential that all students arrive to school **on time**. Lateness to school increases the chances of students mixing and causes significant disruption to the start of the school day. Punctuality and the ability to be on time is a fundamental life skill that students need to have achieved before leaving us. For this reason, there will now be an increased sanction for lateness, in the form of a same day detention. We are happy to support our families in helping our students to encourage and develop this life skill.

GCSE Examinations

For our Year 11 students, we are still awaiting the full outcome of the OFQUAL consultation to decide how students will be awarded their GCSE grades but it is very likely that this will be similar to the process we had last academic year. We will communicate this to our families as soon as this is released. It is vital that our Year 11 students continue to show the commitment to their learning that they have done so far to ensure that they achieve the best grades possible. We are extremely proud of the dedication and resilience that our students have shown in a time of great uncertainty for them but they must continue working incredibly hard to show their true capabilities.

Support for Students

We recognise that prolonged absence from school can be very difficult for students and can have a negative impact on their wellbeing. We aim to support all of our students in the TEMA community firstly through their; form teacher, Behaviour and Learning Mentor, Student Services Leader and Director of Year. We have a range of specialist support available in school included mentoring, programmes promoting positive self-esteem and also psychotherapy delivered by a full time, fully accredited counsellor. If you have any concerns about your child's return to school then please do not hesitate to contact us. All staff are working full time in the building and can be contacted during school hours. Your first port of call should be your child's Director of Year:

Year 7	Heidi Carr-Brown	h.carr-brown@temac.co.uk
Year 8	Jake Moroney	j.moroney@temac.co.uk
Year 9	Jenny Arnell	j.arnell@temac.co.uk
Year 10	Adam Gorey	a.gorey@temac.co.uk
Year 11	Rachel Peynado	r.hardy@temac.co.uk

Once again, we look forward to seeing all of our students on their return. We are very proud of how they have responded to all of the uncertainty and changes of the past twelve months and shown our TEMA values during a challenging time. We are also grateful for all of your support as families in helping to continue our students' education during school closure. We recognise that coordinating home schooling in addition to family and work commitments is not an easy task.

Further details regarding students' return to school will be sent to you next week following any further announcements. As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at school.

Yours sincerely



Ms J Bowen
Academy Headteacher