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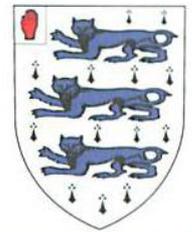
THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

ADAMS COLLEGE SIXTH FORM CENTRE ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: Gavin Sterry BSc (Hons) MA



Dear Parents / Carers

I write to give you some more details about the full opening of school. This letter contains a range of key information around the full opening of school. After reading the letter, should you have any concerns, please get in touch via enquiries@thomasadams.net

As you will see below, we have plans for testing to begin this week (before the 8th March), so that we can get pupils in school and back to their learning as soon as possible. The testing of the pupils is a significant logistical challenge, and I am grateful for your prompt responses with the consent forms. Consenting to testing is voluntary. However, I would strongly encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme, to help stop the transmission by identifying those who may unknowingly be infected with COVID-19. This is a crucial part of the process, as pupils can return to face-to-face learning following their first negative test result. Those students who do not have consent for a test will return with their year group.

Testing

The school testing team has been in place since the beginning of the year and was praised by the Army Local Response Team who said they had not seen anything as well-organised in any of the schools they had visited.

All pupils, whose parents have given testing consent, should attend school for the first time on the following days:

Thursday	04/03/2021	Year 11
		Year 10
Friday	05/03/2021	Year 12
		Year 13
Monday	08/03/2021	Year 7
Tuesday	09/03/2021	Year 8
Wednesday	10/03/2021	Year 9

A full coach service will be available on Thursday (4/3/21) and Friday (5/3/21) mornings with **usual pick-up times**, and coaches will be available to take those pupils home at **11am**. Any pupils who do not normally travel by coach should please delay their arrival to school until 10.30am, and they can leave once they have their result.

Buses will pick up Years 7, 8 and 9 on the following days (Mon 8th, Tues 9th or Wed 10th) at the usual times, but these pupils will remain in school for their normal lessons following testing. **Pupils who do not normally travel by coach should come into school on the day for their first test at 10.30am** (and not before).

Two subsequent tests per pupil will be arranged, in accordance with Public Health England timescales, during the school day on a rota basis.

Where no consent has been given, the first school day for Years 7, 10, 11, 12 & 13 will be Monday 8th March, with Year 8 on Tuesday 9th and Year 9 on Wednesday 10th.



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Positive Results

If your child receives a positive result, they will be isolated in school and we will contact home to arrange transportation for the student, they will not be permitted to return home on public transport or bus. We will then undertake contact tracing and be in touch with any other students affected in due course.

Testing info For Year 10 and 11 on Thursday 4th March and Friday 5th March

On the specified days above, students who use **public transport** or our **school bus service** will be asked to come into school at the **normal school starting** time. Students who arrive via other methods of transport, e.g., walking, car, will be asked to arrive at school at 10:30. They will be directed to the yard where they will be given instructions. They will be escorted to separate rooms, supervised by a member of staff, based on forms to create a bubble where they will receive a presentation on how the tests work and will have the opportunity to complete the registration forms, for which, students will need to have their mobile phones. Students will need to know your email address and phone number to complete the process. We encourage students to bring a book or some work to complete and food or drink as this process is expected to take a few hours to complete and we will not have provision to provide this on site.

Once the tests are complete, we hope to have bus students tested by 11:00 and will return home via their normal method of transport. When the students arriving at 10:30 have been tested, they will be dismissed in form groups once we have their results. Once your child has had their test, they will need to wait 30 minutes for the result, they will be able to notify you if needed during this time to arrange transport home and we would hope to have them dismissed between 45 minutes and an hour later, we would ask that you arrange to meet your child off the school site, on the adjoining roads, when you know they have been tested. If you have declined to give consent for the testing process, your child will not be required to attend school on these days.

For Years 7, 8 and 9 – Monday – Wednesday

For Years 7, 8 and 9, the above method of arriving and testing applies. The difference lies in the dismissal procedure. Once students have been tested, they will return to their normal classrooms and once testing has been completed for that form, normal lessons will resume if possible. If you have not given consent for your child to be tested, they are to return to school at the appropriate time and will receive the same education as the other students on the testing days.

Key Worker and vulnerable students

Our provision for key worker students will continue until we return to our normal timetable of teaching on the afternoon of Wednesday 10th March. During this time, they will not have access to the computers so they will be provided with paper work packs to keep them separate from the retuning students.

Second and Third Tests

Once the students have had their first test, they can return to school from the 8th March. During the week after their return, we will be testing twice, this will take place during the school day.

Positive test result

Should a positive test occur, we will be isolating the student and notifying close contacts of the need to isolate, in accordance with our risk assessment policy.

Risk Assessment

The Reopening Risk Assessment is being updated and will published on the school website shortly.

Remote Learning

From Thursday 4th of March, your child(ren) will be set all their work via the assignments tool on Teams. There will be no live lessons as we stagger the return to school.

On the day that your child receives their first test, no work will be set for them to complete.

We are mindful of the potential stress and anxiety the testing process may have on our students and have taken these measures to address this.

The onus will be on your child(ren) to check Microsoft Teams regularly and submit work to their teachers. Staff will aim to **provide feedback to students on work produced during this lockdown period**. It is therefore essential that students keep any work they have produced in a secure place (in particular, those that received work packs), as they will be asked to bring this work into school on their return.

Home Learning

The Home Learning schedule will begin week again on the week beginning the 15th of March.

Structure of the Day

Students will follow the same timetable and be in the same rooms as they were prior to the current lockdown. The structure of the day will also remain the same with staggered breaks and lunchtimes. Year groups will continue to be allocated to their specific zones of the school and follow the same year routes around the school between lessons and breaks.

Students must have with them the basic equipment to access the curriculum (school bag, exercise books, pens, pencils, reading book etc).

Food

The school and College canteens will provide a full service, similar to the arrangements made during the Autumn term.

Free School Meals

The week beginning Monday 1st March will be the final week FSM families will receive their vouchers from the National Scheme. From the 8th March, FSM provision will be provided on-site, as students return to school.

Transport

All services will run as normal from Monday 8 March.

Face masks

Due to the new guidance, pupils will need to **wear face masks at all times** when in the building. Therefore, please ensure that your child has **at least 2 masks** per day so that this is possible. There will be masks available in school, but these will continue to be charged for on your Parent Pay account if your child needs to have one supplied by the school.

Uniform

Full school uniform will need to be worn whenever your child is in school, even if they are only attending for a few hours to be tested on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March (Years 10 and 11).

If your child is not wearing the proper uniform, then they can expect to be kept out of circulation during their breaks and lunch times until they are correctly dressed. This includes wearing black trousers instead of grey (Years 7 – 10) or trainers, even ones that are completely black, as these are **NOT** part of the uniform. Please refer to the following page on our website for full details of our uniform.

<https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/School-Uniform-Sept-2020.pdf>

If your child has grown out of their uniform, and you are in a position to donate this, we will be collecting any uniform items from the 8th of March in Student Reception. These items will be laundered at school and offered to families who are having difficulty in accessing uniform at this difficult time. We continue to have a limited stock of our old uniform for pupils in Year 11 who may need to access this.

Thomas Adams PE kit will be worn to school on the days that students have practical PE lessons. This can include plain navy jogging bottoms (**not leggings**) and a plain navy jumper, if your child does not have the Thomas Adams joggers or fleece. **Pupils will be directed to remove any joggers, leggings or jumpers which have logos on them.**

Mobile phones

The use of mobile phones by pupils is not allowed at any time in school. Therefore, if your child(ren) brings their phone into school, then the phone must be turned off and in their bag. If their phone is confiscated, it will be returned to them at the end of the day on the first occasion. For the second and any subsequent occasions, their phone will be kept in the safe until an adult comes to pick it up for them. Our log from the Autumn Term continues, so please remind your child(ren) about this. Please refer to our policy below.

<https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/19-20-Policy-Statement-Mobile-Phones.pdf>

Behaviour

Obviously, we continue to expect excellent standards of behaviour from all of our pupils. These are difficult times and, in order to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19, we expect all pupils to adhere to the safety rules and regulations we have put in place.

We will continue to sanction any pupil, according to our Behaviour Policy, if their behaviour goes against our community norms and expectations.

Once again, everyone is working hard to make sure we have a smooth reopening of school, sixth form and boarding and I would very much like to thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult process.



Mark Cooper
Headteacher