



CONSETT
ACADEMY

Our Ref KER/KEB/CMC

26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The wider reopening of all schools

I am now asking myself, 'is this the beginning of the end?' Let's hope so. It has been a demanding and draining year, in many ways. For some of us we have suffered significant pain and loss. My thoughts go out to you all.

My hope is that from w/c 8 March our young people can return to school without ever having to face the spectre of another lockdown, not being allowed to attend school. There is a lot of information coming out from government and much to digest. In this letter I will try to set out clearly the key details around your child's return to school and the testing that must take place before they can return to the classroom. I can reassure you that we have updated our COVID-19 policy and procedures along with the necessary risk assessment document.

Friday 5 March

All Academy staff will be in school this day to get tested and ensure everything is ready for your child's return the following week. As a result, there will be no live lessons this day but work will be set for your child to complete. I hasten to add, this is **not** a non-work day. Your child is still expected to complete the tasks set. However, by not having live lessons your child will have the flexibility to complete the work when they choose during the day. With the spare time we would like you to ask your child to check they have everything they need for their return to school the following week – bags, stationery, books, folders etc. It would also be wise to check that all items of uniform are washed, ready and still fit.

We do expect all students to attend the Academy in full school uniform, apart from the days they have PE where it should be PE uniform. Blazers should be worn on the days that your child does not have PE - Academy hoodies are only able to be worn on the days your child has PE. No other hoodies are to be worn at any time. If a student is wearing the **incorrect uniform** the issue will be noted on ClassCharts and you may be contacted to discuss the matter further.

A reminder of the Consett Academy uniform is below:

- Grey Business Jacket with embroidered Academy logo (separate male & female fit).
- Tie: Years 7 to 10 – Blue and grey striped clip on tie Year 11 – Grey and blue striped tie.
- White Shirt.
- Black loose fitting, formal trousers or skirt (knee length which can be straight or pleated). **NO LEGGINGS.**
- Black Shoes (not trainer-style shoes, boots or plimsolls. Wellington boots may be worn in snow but the aforementioned must be brought and worn once students are in school).
- Plain black belt, no more than 3 cm wide, if required.

Optional items: Academy black jumper with blue strip – no alternative is acceptable.

PE Uniform

- Navy and sky blue Academy sports tops (indoor and outdoor)
- Navy/Black tracksuit bottoms/fitness pants
- Training shoes

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Part of New College Durham Academies Trust
Executive Principal: Mr K Reynolds, MA

A reminder about Consett Academy's Personal Appearance Expectations:

We are always conscious of health and safety risks both to the owner and others in the wearing of jewellery. Therefore, the only jewellery allowed is a wrist watch. Piercings, facial or bodily, are not allowed due to health and safety considerations. In the Academy's programme of Personal and Social Education, we ask students to consider their appearance and the impression it makes on others. This is particularly important when on interview or representing the Academy for instance.

Make-up - Make-up, if worn at all, should be discreetly used and not be excessive. Nail varnish, nail extensions and nail decoration are not allowed.

Hair styles - Hair styles should be practical, clean and suitable for a working environment. Please note - hairstyles representing various cults e.g. punk, Mohican, hair shaved in bands, stripes, initials or dyed in unnatural colours are unacceptable. Eyebrows shaved in stripes are also unacceptable.

W/c Monday 8 March – mass testing

Earlier this week the government made the following statement: *All secondary school and college students will take coronavirus (COVID-19) tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8 March. Schools and colleges will have discretion on how to phase the return of their students over the week beginning 8 March to allow them to be tested on return. After an initial programme of 3 tests in school or college, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Secondary school and college staff will also continue to be provided with two tests to use each week at home.*

From Monday 8 March all students will return on a phased basis according to how logistically we can manage the first batch of mass testing for students. Work will be provided through live lessons for those students who are at home. Those who have returned to school lessons will be face to face. The day students come into school for their test will be provided with work to do when it is best for them rather than missing a live lesson.

Each year group will be tested (first test only) on one day and they will return to school the following day as follows:

Monday 8 March: Year 11 & Year 9 to be tested

Tuesday 9 March: Year 10 & Year 8 to be tested/Year 11 & Year 9 to return to school

Wednesday 10 March: Sixth Form & Year 7 to be tested/Year 10 & Year 8 to return to school

Thursday 11 March: Sixth Form & Year 7 to return to school

All first tests will be carried out in the leisure part of the Academy (squash courts area) not in the main building. More specific details including timings will be issued nearer the time. Tests 2 and 3 will be carried out during the second part of w/c 8 March and w/c 15 March on a rota basis whilst students are in school. All testing will strictly follow government guidelines.

When we have received the home testing kits for students we will write to you with further details about distribution and use.

Face coverings

Advice from the government has changed since the Autumn Term: *Staff and students in secondary schools and colleges are advised to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained as a temporary extra measure.*

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To avoid doubt and confusion we are **requiring all students to wear face masks in all areas** including classrooms. I hope this is time limited and after Easter we will not have to continue with this requirement. Following government advice, if we can continue to be cautious and sensible now it may speed up the end to these restrictions.

Face to face teaching

I know I can speak for the vast majority of us (parents, carers, children and staff) when I say that we are all looking forward to getting back to normal school routines. As parents and carers, you will want your child to settle back into face to face teaching as quickly as possible too and know that they are quickly making up any lost gaps in their learning. We share your priorities and will do all we can to reassure and support your child upon their return.

A' level and GCSE grades – summer 2021

I have just received the decisions on how the above grades will be determined. When I have had a chance to read the document and formulate our response, I'll be in touch.

If you have any queries or concerns about any of the above please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The link to Gavin Williamson's open letter to parents can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely



Kevin Reynolds
Executive Principal