



4 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 – return to school after lockdown from 8 March/arrangements for lateral flow testing in order to return to school, Returning work from lockdown, Personal Development Day – Friday 12 March, Admissions into Year 7 for September 2021 entry, House fundraising competition

I hope that the month of March has begun well for you as we count down to next week's reopening. I cannot believe that we are already into the third month of the year! I am not exactly sure where the past couple of months have gone to but they have certainly not been spent standing still. More about that below:

Covid-19 – return to school after lockdown from 8 March/arrangements for lateral flow testing in order to return to school

Our risk assessment and general approach to full opening post-lockdown remain broadly the same with a few small alterations - we will be ventilating rooms far more as we come out of the winter period. While we prefer youngsters not to wear coats in classrooms as a general rule, staff will be given the autonomy to consider this as need arises so that no one need feel cold. In addition, each room now has a spray solution for colleagues to administer once students have departed R2L for their class bubble room. This is to ensure that tables and chairs receive an anti-bacterial sheen prior to period 1 which doesn't stick and isn't wet. This is, of course, in addition to each room having its own sanitiser on offer as we did during the Autumn term.

The only other change relates to the use of the main hall for eating cold food. Due to the short term volume of testing, I need to use this space for registration of tests and as a clean waiting area. Once our 'en masse' testing is complete after three full cycles, we will return to normal practice. In the meantime, youngsters will be encouraged to go to their year zones.

I have received some enquiries about when families will receive their LFT home kits. I await further guidance but, in line with the national guidance published so far, these kits should not be utilised before 15 March anyway. Once I have received our quota I will reach out and explain how the system will work.

The risk assessment, lateral flow testing schedule and associated FAQs are now on the website under the **Key Information** tab.

If any parents have any other concerns related to Covid-19 in school, please contact us at the Academy using the email address COVID@srpa.co.uk.

Returning work from lockdown

If your child does not have internet access at home or has completed their work in hard copy for any other reason, they should submit their work to the appropriate subject teacher upon our return. This is particularly important for Years 11 and 13 for obvious reasons.

Personal Development Day – Friday 12 March

For our fourth Personal Development Day of this academic year, we want to focus heavily on our students' wellbeing after such a long time away from us. We also want to give them a huge welcome back into our community, having significant time with their R2L tutors. All year groups will also have a session learning about what the Census is and why it is so important.

The core programme for Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 will involve sessions learning about:

- Emergency First Aid including CPR (Covid safe)
- Our SRPA Values and supporting our wider community
- Mental Health, Online Safety & Cyber Bullying – A musical performance by Denis Coleman (Support act for 'The Vamps')
- Positivity and Wellbeing – supporting the school community as it comes back together

In addition, Year 7 will learn about effective dental health, Year 8 will develop their digital resilience, Year 9 will learn about different routes into a career in teaching and Year 10 will look at how drugs and alcohol affect decision making.

Whilst Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 will follow a timetable involving:

- Emergency First Aid including CPR and using a defibrillator (Covid safe)
- Developing aspiration, motivation whilst supporting wellbeing
- Student choice enrichment activities focussed on health and wellbeing

Other sessions will involve, Year 11 developing their academic resilience and learning about National Citizen Service (NCS) opportunities, Year 12 will start their Employable Me programme whilst Year 13 will have some time to collaboratively work on their year book.

If this wasn't enough, Mrs Griffiths and the science department are celebrating British Science Week with some extra-curricular activities and challenges students can get involved in.

Finally regarding PD, Mr Griffiths is preparing to send out our first combined bulletin for PD, Careers and Enrichment. Look out for it next Monday. We will look to send this out twice a half term from this point.



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Admissions into Year 7 for September 2021 entry

Earlier this week it was national offer day for places into the Academy for September. I am delighted to inform you that, yet again, we are full and expect many appeals this summer. It was particularly encouraging to see so many siblings joining us in September who will be carrying on a family tradition of attending at SRPA. Thank you for placing your trust and faith in us to deliver. The Academy has now been over-subscribed for two years in full. Upon researching when the Academy last had appeals to deal with, it turns out it was back in 2002! Our mission to improve the educational offer for our youngsters remains unwavering and I am only just warming up. This Academy has a bright future ahead if I have anything to do with it.

House fundraising competition

Last week saw the launch of our annual fundraising competition where pupils at SRPA compete for this year's House Charities Cup. Pupils and staff from each House will spend the next 5 months giving their time and effort to raise as much money as possible for their House chosen charity. Winning the SRPA Charities Cup is of course a great honour and is highly coveted within the Academy. However, the real aim of this initiative is to support our amazing charities and make a real impact on the lives of the people who need it most. We encourage all members of our SRPA community to get on board and support their cause. Anything you can do, no matter how small, will make a huge difference. The House GoFundMe pages are now live and the donations are becoming to come in. York House are at £150 already!

The links to the pages are below. Tudor House are the reigning champions, will they keep the cup or will it be Lancaster, Stuart, Windsor or York? The best of luck everybody!

- ' [Stuart](#)
- ' [Windsor](#)
- ' [Tudor](#)
- ' [York](#)
- ' [Lancaster](#)

For me, the past few weeks have highlighted the importance of values, both personally and professionally. The values we hold dear at SRPA – Aspiration, Respect, Engagement, Communities, Environment and Reflection – are far more than abstract notions. They are the key to a life well lived. We can see them every day in all that we do or fail to do: they are conspicuous by their absence as by their presence. As we return to full education from next week, I know that our House teams and R2L tutors will be doing further work with our youngsters with regard to our values so that our community, once again, comes together to look to a successful future. In considering our return a little more deeply, I ask myself, what should our default setting be when it comes to how we interact and speak with each other?



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After many months of 'Covid fatigue' and the many anxieties the pandemic continues to cause, I can't help thinking that it is incumbent on us all, as part of the SRPA family, to try to keep spirits high, to be supportive of each other and to adopt a calm, kind, empathetic approach in the way that we speak and behave with those around us. That is certainly going to be my message next week to colleagues and students alike. In the inimitable words of the American author H. Jackson Brown, "Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something and has lost something."

Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



"This is a calm, happy and caring school."

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