

03 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Principal's newsletter

I hope my latest letter finds you all well. I am writing to you all with a few updates and also to inform you of a timeline for the information you will receive over the next few days.

Lateral Flow Device Tests at BOA:

Thank you for your responses to the survey I sent out last week. As I am sure you can imagine, it has been a mammoth task to organise lateral flow device tests (LFDTs) for the large number of students who have 'opted-in' for this service. On the flip side – and due to the number of tests we will have to facilitate – I am not able to avoid calling in certain students on days when they are not in BOA for lessons. On Monday 15th March, a large number of Year 12 students are on site for their A' Level subjects and we will have to ask all other Year 12s who have 'opted-in' to come in on this day. Similarly, on Thursday 11th March, whereas there are large numbers of Year 13s on site for their A' Level lessons, we will have to ask all other Year 13s who have 'opted-in' to take their second test on this day. I realise that this may be a little inconvenient but, when having to arrange tests for four year groups (and to ensure all tests are 3 to 5 days apart), it has been extremely difficult to find any other alternative.

Please note: If your child has 'opted-in' for the LFDTs, you will receive confirmation of times and dates on Thursday 4th March. We will send letters out to your email accounts.

Friday 5th March 2021:

To facilitate training and arrangements for reopening from 8th March onwards – and to brief staff on the process for the LFDTs as well – I have asked all teachers to set work for their classes on Microsoft Teams for Friday 5th March 2021. This will mean that students can continue to work remotely from home but we will not run our usual 'live' lessons on this day. BOA is still open to vulnerable students and children of key workers, with teachers on hand to supervise their learning. Thank you for your support here.

Qualifications for Year 11 and Year 13 students:

Mr Painter (Assistant Principal) has written to all parents and carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students with details of how qualifications (BTECs, GCSEs and A' Levels) will be awarded this year. Please accept my assurances that we will endeavour to carry out a fair and open process here. We will inform you all of the 'evidence' we will use (or plan to use) for the teacher-assessed grades (TAGs), as well as providing a timeline for any future assessments. We will send this information to you as soon as possible.

Year 10 Parents' Evening:

We will host our 'virtual' Year 10 Parents' Evening via *School Cloud* on Thursday 11th March, from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. To facilitate this, all lessons will finish at 3.45pm on this day.

Phased return week commencing 8th March:

A reminder that year groups will return to BOA next week as follows:

Monday 8th March: Year 13

Tuesday 9th March: Years 10 and 11

Wednesday 10th March: Year 12

Please note: The above indicates each year group's first day back at the academy, after which the usual timetable will run. Remote learning will continue for Years 10, 11 and 12 on Monday 8th March and for Year 12 on Tuesday 9th March.

Good news stories:

As I bring this letter to a close, I would like to promote the sterling work of Callum Wallace in Year 13 (Technical Theatre Arts), who writes, produces and presents a radio show called **The Sound of Musicals** on radiotamworth.com. If you would like to listen, please tune in to 106.8FM on Sundays, when the show airs from 5pm to 6pm. Congratulations!

Until I write again, I hope you all stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Alistair Chattaway

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alistair Chattaway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Alistair Chattaway
Principal