



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

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1st April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

As we reach the end of an extraordinary term we can begin to see 'light at the end of the tunnel' and look forward to beginning the process of gradually reintroducing many of the events and activities that make Atlantic a special place to be educated. When we return on 20th April we will still be expected to have in place control measures such as the year group 'bubbles', face masks and social distancing procedures. However, as we are allowed to do so and, more importantly, when it is safe to do so, we will look to slowly and carefully expand our provision. Further details of how we are hoping to return to some kind of normality will come to you as the Summer Term progresses.

This past year has certainly been challenging for everyone. It is important that as we view hopefully more positive times ahead that we learn from this experience, we remember how important it is to support each other and the wonderful impact that encouragement can have on an individual. The full and lasting extent of the pandemic on our school community is yet to be seen but we will be working to ensure that we are here to support the needs of all of our students as we move forward together.

Letter to children and young people from the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State for Education has written to children and young people to recognise the impact of the disruption they have faced over the past year and to thank them for their resilience. He outlines his continued commitment to supporting children and young people to recover from the disruption now that they have returned to school and college. The letter also highlights the importance of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and the vital role this plays in helping to prevent the virus spreading.

The letter is published on the [DfE media blog](#) and on DfE's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Testing and contact tracing in schools and colleges over the Easter holidays

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the Summer Term. Staff and students should:

- continue to test twice a week at home (all those who are able to)
- report positive, negative or void results using the [report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#) portal
- test before returning to school for the summer term - either the night before or the morning of the first day back to find and isolate any positive cases.

For the purposes of contact tracing, staff, students, parents and carers **need only inform us** of a **positive case** if the symptoms develop **within 2 days** of being **in the school** or they have **tested positive with a lateral flow** device (LFD) test (and will subsequently need to book a confirmatory PCR test). We will then identify close contacts and advise students to self-isolate, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Reporting a Positive Covid Test Result over Easter [via our website](#)

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, please report it [here](#) on our website, **self-isolate** immediately and **get a PCR test** to confirm the result.



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Home testing kits for students

- All students have been given 2 packs of tests to enable 10 home tests to be carried out over Easter holidays and beyond

April: Stress Awareness Month

Whilst writing, the Mental Health in Schools Team are promoting April being Stress Awareness Month. They have produced a leaflet entitled "What to do when you feel stressed" which may be of support to some of our school community. [Link Here](#)

Start of term

Monday 19th April: Staff Inset and Year 11 Mentoring

Staff have an Inset day and Year 11 will be coming in for their academic mentoring sessions between **12-2pm**. Year 11 students should have received their appointment times via email.

Tuesday 20th April: all students back to school

- Year 7/8/9 need to be in for line up by **8:27am** for an 8:30am tutor time registration and leave at **2:45pm**
- Year 10 & 11 need to be in for line up by **8:33am** for an 8:35am tutor time registration and leave at **3:00pm**

Year 10 Virtual (Video Call) Parents' Evening: Thursday 22nd April

The Virtual Booking system is **open** for you to make appointments and will close on **Wednesday 21st April at 12pm**. To ensure that you secure appointments with your child's teachers, please book early as the slots do get booked quickly.

Welcome

I would also like to welcome Miss A Busby-Wilcocks who will be joining the English Department after Easter.

Lastly can I wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter Holiday when hopefully the weather will allow us all to use some of our new freedoms. Stay safe.

Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary