

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, a huge thanks to my amazing staff who have conducted over 2,000 Lateral Flow Tests this week. It has been an amazing effort to see the speed at which the testing has been completed with disruption to learning minimal. The final round of testing as required by the Department for Education will be conducted on Monday and Tuesday of next week. After this process has been completed students will be issued with home testing kits and information will be provided to parents in how to support their child in completing the tests as well as the follow up process in regards to recording the results.

Work when Isolating - Live Lessons from Monday 15 March 2021

From Monday 15 March students that are having to self-isolate at home will be able to dial into their live lessons as per timetable. We will be trialling this approach over the next few weeks and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding, as both students and staff become familiar with this blended teaching and learning approach.

As you may be aware parts of Epworth suffered a power cut early on Thursday morning. Unfortunately, as a result of this the school network and WIFI at the academy have been severely affected. In conjunction with our IT providers, we have an interim solution to allow our students at home and staff in school to stay connected. Please continue to be patient if issues occur regarding connectivity.

For Monday and Tuesday of next week the timetable has been amended to allow the completion of the final Lateral Flow Tests as required by the Department of Education. Students will receive double periods of the lessons timetabled for period 1, 3 and 5. From Wednesday 17 March students will resume their timetable at the times indicated below. Students should also dial into their form group every morning at 8.55am starting on Monday.

Should a teacher be absent from a lesson we will endeavour to provide cover, if possible. This information will be shared via the 'Class Team'. Please note there may also be occasions where a member of staff will set work via the 'Assignment' section of Teams to cover absence or testing. For practical lessons teachers will discuss, during the lesson a suitable alternative to match the home environment. Work should be completed in class exercise books or on paper.

Whilst students will need to be up and "in" lessons at the normal times (albeit via Teams) there is no requirement to wear uniform when working at home. We would like all our students to make use of the break and lunchtime period by moving away from a screen. When working on Teams students can choose to have their camera on or off, and as they enter the virtual lesson they should have their

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microphone off until asked to unmute themselves by their teacher. The teacher may also mute themselves for parts of the lesson and where they deem appropriate.

Students can post messages for their teachers should they require any help or use the hand up function during the lesson. Please note that the teacher may not be able to respond immediately to any queries or questions from the students and they will do so at their earliest possible time. It may be that the teacher also asks the students at home to complete a different activity to what is being completed in school or sign off from the lesson earlier than timetabled in order to complete a set task or activity. For practical lessons there will be some at home adapted tasks given.

Monday 15 March and Tuesday 16 March – students have double lessons these are the subjects for Periods 1, 3 and 5.

Timetable Wednesday 17 March onwards

Registration 8.55 - 9.05
 Period 1 9:05- 9:55
 Period 2 9:55 - 10:45
 Break 10:45 -11:00
 Period 3 11.00 - 11:50
 Period 4 11:50 - 1:30

Split lunch arrangements below:

Split Lunch Arrangements		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	6th Form
Period 4 / lunch	11:50- 12:20	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lunch
	12:25- 12:55	Lesson 4	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lunch	Lesson 4
	1:00 - 1:30	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lunch	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 4

Period 5 1.30pm – 2.20pm
 Period 6 2.20pm – 3.10pm

In order to support with technical issues during this period of virtual learning, parents should use the following dedicated email address to log any problems with Microsoft Teams or IT. **microsoftteamsupport@isleeducationtrust-iet.co.uk**. Please note that this email address will be monitored at regular periods during working hours and we will endeavour to answer all queries as quickly as we can. Students who do not have access to device / WIFI please contact the academy admin email address: **admin@southaxholme-iet.co.uk** where arrangements will be made to support student learning.

If your child is in receipt of Free Schools Meals we will be in touch to confirm arrangements for collection.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Barlow
 Principal