

5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year to all our families and wishing you all the very best for 2022. I truly hope the holiday period was a positive experience for you all.

We begin the Spring term for all students on Friday 7th January and are certainly looking forward to the rest of the academic year, where we continue to strive forward, despite the ongoing challenges that the pandemic brings. There are several key messages that are outlined below.

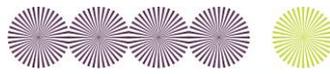
COVID-19 key control and safety measures

- Students in Years 7-13 will be expected to wear face coverings in communal areas and **inside classrooms** from the start of Spring 1 (Note: this will be reviewed by DFE towards the end of January). Students will be expected to bring their own face coverings to the academy every day
- Students in Years 7-13 will continue to take **2 lateral flow tests weekly**.
- PE kit will continue to be worn to the academy on days students have PE lessons.
- Maintain good hygiene for everyone by using hand sanitiser regularly. We encourage students to carry a pocket size hand sanitiser, as well as having stations around the academy.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes i.e. regular cleaning in accordance with Government cleaning standards, with common touch points cleaned at least twice per day. We have continued with our additional cleaning across the two sites into this academic year
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- We will respond with the outbreak management plan if a COVID-19 outbreak is reported by relevant authorities. This will trigger a change in our guidance and safety measures at INA. For example, it could trigger us stipulating face coverings need to be worn in certain areas, amongst other key measures.

Additionally, there have been changes to the period of self-isolation. Please familiarise yourselves with the information below and visit the following for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

- Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.



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- This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

I wanted to thank our families for continuing to support in helping keep each other as safe as possible, whilst also maintaining the highest of expectations regarding student attendance.

Student Attendance (Year to date)

Attendance for Years 7-13 dipped 0.5%, which is a significant decline for half a term. Understandably the final few weeks were challenging due to the escalation in COVID-19 cases. Our attendance is still strong compared to the Ark network and nationally, however, we need to start the spring term in a strong way and continue until the end of the year. **Our attendance at the end of Autumn 2 was 95.6%.** This is the breakdown of the year groups for Autumn term

- Y7 is 96.4%
- Y8 is 95.7%
- Y9 is 95.3%
- Y10 is 95.5%
- **Y11 is 95.1%**
- Y12 is 95.5%
- **Y13 is 95.0%.**

I have highlighted both examination year groups who have the lowest attendance in the academy. I must stress again the importance of the link between attendance and achievement. Let's continue to demonstrate the highest levels of grit and resilience, work together to keep things moving forward and have as many of our students reach the **attendance target of 96%.**

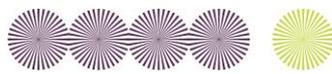
GCSE and A-level examinations

We enter a critical phase for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, where progress made in Spring term has a huge influence on the final outcomes (grades) students receive. Currently, public examinations are still taking place this summer and we will continue with our achievement strategy and plans for these. It is vital that all Year 11 and Year 13 students are taking these exams seriously and are revising each day.

Student Professionalism

I would like families to be aware of areas of focus regarding student professionalism at the academy. There are several key areas that require rapid improvement, and we will see over the Spring term new systems and measures to tackle the following. Moving forward there will be zero tolerance approach regarding the basic aspects of professionalism at INA.

- Punctuality to the academy.
- Punctuality to lessons and the professional conduct expected when transitioning around the building, including lining up for lessons/tutor period and always walking.
- Uniform, including when students wear their PE kit. At all times students must have their shirts/PE polo shirt tucked in and model professional presentation.



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- Students knowingly entering areas of the academy that are 'out of bounds'.
- Independent learning completion.

We require your support with all of the above, but particularly with things that we cannot control e.g., punctuality to the academy and completion of independent learning work. There will be series of changes introduced over the spring term to tackle key issues we are experiencing to ensure we continue to make the academy the best for our students.

Academy communication

Please use these email addresses and telephone numbers to contact the relevant academy staff if you have a query regarding your child. These have been live since the Autumn term. Please only use the info@isaacnewtonacademy.org for general enquires.

- **Y7 - Mr Marecar:** Year7pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org and +442081616002
- **Y8 – Mr Wang:** Year8pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org and +44 121 260 5939
- **Y9 – Mr Athwal:** Year9pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org and +442081616033
- **Y10 – Ms Stylianou:** Year10pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org and +442081615985
- **Y11 - Mr Crowther-Green:** Year11pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org and +442081615985
- **Y12/13 – Ms Patel:** Sixthformpastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org and +442081615908

Key dates for Spring 1

- Thursday 6th January - **Mass Testing** before the start of the Spring term. See separate communication for your child's specific time.
- Wednesday 12th January - **Student Progress Review Meetings**. See separate communication about booking your appointment to review your child's autumn term report. These will be virtual appointments using Schoolcloud.
- Thursday 13th to 25th January - **Y13 BTEC national examination series** starts for our Business Studies and Applied Science students. See separate communication for specific times and dates.
- Thursday 13th January – **HPV vaccinations dose 1.**
- Friday 14th January – **Flu vaccinations**
- Friday 21st January – **Sixth form application deadline.**
- Monday 7th February – **Year 11 & Year 13 mock exams start**, see separate communication for specific times and dates.
- Friday 11th February – **Ark Inset Day**

We are currently reflecting on a suitable date for the Winter Concert given the current COVID-19 climate. We will continue to update families when we have confirmed our plans here.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Morgan Haines
Principal