

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and staying safe. Our thoughts are with those of you who have been affected by the virus. Please do get in contact if there is anything at all you need support with.

## Live lessons for all

It has been so pleasing to see so many students attending their live lessons in Year 11 this week. Next week, as already shared, all students in years 7-11 will attend live lessons, including their daily assembly from 8.45 until 12.30. Let it be known, **school is very much open**, albeit accessed online. Can parents continue to ensure that their children get up on time and attend every lesson. We are in such a strong place to ensure that students don't fall behind. However, no matter how hard our teachers work to plan your children's lesson, it is only worthwhile if our children attend and submit work on SMHW within the agreed deadline of 24 hours.

## Chromebooks available for free borrowing

I am very glad to say that we can announce that we have enough devices to ensure that every child without a laptop at home, can now borrow one from us. Through charitable donations and the generosity of the ARK network, we have plenty of brand new Chromebooks on loan to your child for the rest of their time at Evelyn Grace Academy. There is no charge to borrow this device. However, you will have to pay if the Chromebook is stolen, lost or damaged. If you require a device to access online learning and have not yet collected one, please email my Assistant Principal ([daniel.mcewen@evelyngraceacademy.org](mailto:daniel.mcewen@evelyngraceacademy.org)) directly to arrange for **you and your child** to come to school and take one home. If you do not have access to the internet there are a number of different schemes available to help you. We have some wireless routers available which we can give you for free. Mobile phone companies are providing extra data for certain students - <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/internet-access> - so please contact us if you need any advice or support with this.

## Parent Forum

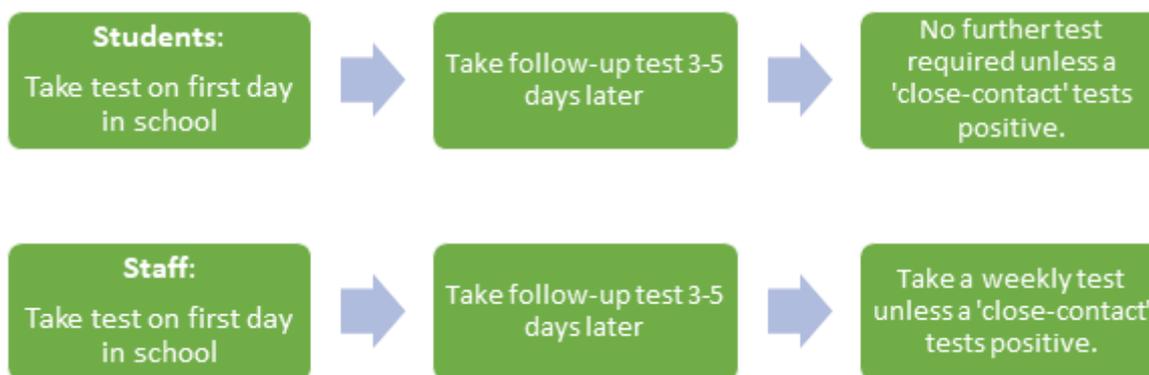
Last week we ran a parents' forum meeting via MS Teams. We are going to hold these once every week. Every parent is invited to attend. This is a chance for you to ask questions and for us to share information and catch up. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. The link is [here](#) and it will take place every Monday at 3.00 p.m.

## Testing Arrangements

The government has asked secondary schools across England to set up COVID-19 testing for students and staff as they return to school in person. The process is straightforward, and we already have 8 members of staff who have received training to ensure the process runs smoothly.

During lockdown, any member of staff or student who comes into school will take a test on the first day that they are in. If they continue to attend school regularly following that, then they will need to take a second test within 3-5 days. The school will organise the date and time of this follow-up test. Thereafter, students will only need a test if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive. Staff who continue to come into school regularly will need a test once a week (unless they are a 'close contact'). We support this government initiative as it will help to provide a further layer of security, on top of the existing strict safety and hygiene measures that are already in place across our school.

### The testing process is outlined below:



### Testing centre opening hours

**Community classroom students:** 8:30 – 09:00

**Staff:** 09:00 – 10:00

**Location:** Dance Studio

Testing of students is optional, but strongly encouraged as it helps keep our children and staff safe by identifying those who are positive but asymptomatic. To provide consent for your child to be tested, please click [here](#).

### Community Classrooms

It's been great to see so many students learning in school. Community classrooms are open to 'vulnerable' students and the children of critical workers. If you think your child might be eligible, please contact [ania.chawluk@evelyngraceacademy.org](mailto:ania.chawluk@evelyngraceacademy.org) to book a place.

They have supervised online learning in the mornings and sports and arts activities in the afternoon. Staff are also there to support them.

**What to wear:** You should wear full school uniform. You must always wear a face covering in community classrooms (please bring your own). Jewellery and make-up expectations are the same as a normal school day. You should bring trainers for the sports activity in the afternoon. Feel free to bring your own Art equipment for the Art activity.

**What to bring:** School bag, planner, pencil case, exercise books (if you have them at home). You should also bring headphones (ones with wires so they plug into the computers). You should bring your phone to support with registering for tests, however, this must be off and away when not in the testing centre.

**Arriving at school:** You should arrive by 8:00. When you arrive, buzz the gate and go directly to the Library.

**Lateness:** If you arrive later than 9:00am, your parent will be contacted and you will be required to explain your lateness to your DOL.

**Daily schedule:**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
08:00	Arrival and Testing
08:30	Breakfast
08:45	Online assembly
09:00	Online lesson 1
09:50	Online lesson 2
<b>10:40</b>	Break and snacks
10:50	Online lesson 3
11:40	Online lesson 4
<b>12:30</b>	Lunch
13:00	Sports/Arts/Reading
14:00	SMHW assignments and submissions
15:00	Dismissal

**Assessment and reporting**

We will send reports home to all parents for students in years 7-10 by 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Year 11 have already received a report for the Autumn Term. We will report to all parents (Years 7-11) again this half term letting you know how your child has done in the assessments we will be setting in our weekly and fortnightly knowledge quizzes. We will also report to you on their attendance to all their live lessons. Parents evenings will be postponed until further notice.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us on:  
[info@evelyngraceacademy.org](mailto:info@evelyngraceacademy.org)

With every good wish,



Mr Tim Dainty  
Principal  
Ark Evelyn Grace