



16th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

In this continually evolving situation, we wish to keep you updated with some of the changes we have made so that your child is kept safe, and is also able to attend school as much as possible.

In line with the updated guidance from Public Health England (PHE), we adopt the following process in the event of a student or staff member testing positive for Coronavirus, to identify close contacts and allow students and staff who are not to return to the Academy as soon as it is possible, rather than isolating when it is not required for two weeks.

Our current timeline from a report of a positive test result:

1. Students in their year group are sent home immediately, or if the result is provided outside of normal school hours, we will communicate this to you via ParentApps and the school website.
2. We also discuss with the student via their parents, information about when the affected person had been in school, when symptoms began, and ask how they travel to and from school and who is in their friendship group, paying particular attention to breaks and lunchtimes. We discuss this information with Public Health England and follow their guidance as advised.
3. Senior members of staff identify which students had close proximity to the affected person during lessons. We do this using our class seating plans, which are available for every lesson within the Academy. Using this method, we identify any student who is within close proximity contact, which is students that have been sat in front of, behind and adjacent to affected person.
4. When we have reviewed and identified all of the key contacts, we arrange for communication to be sent out to parents/carers, this is via ParentApps and as a text message. We also publish the letters on our website.

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5. Parents/carers are informed if their child has been in close proximity to the person who has tested positive and advised to self-isolate for up to 14 days (this can vary, for instance if the person who has tested positive did not attend school for a number of days prior to their positive test result, and on how long they had symptoms for). Students who have not been in close proximity are advised to return to the Academy.
6. Home learning is available for those students who are to continue isolating.

Our priority is to keep every child and member of staff in the Academy safe.

Our safety measures include:

- A radio-co-ordinated system that ensures year group bubbles don't mix during lesson changeovers.
- Strict seating plans and record keeping.
- Staggered start and finish times for the school day, breaks and lunches.
- Additional staff supervision throughout the school day.
- Over 120 hand sanitising stations placed throughout the Academy, including at the entrance to every classroom.
- Every classroom and working space has sanitising wipes available.
- Distancing markers on floors.
- Face coverings are mandatory when moving through the building, and optional when in lessons. Coverings are also enforceable in the dinner hall, except when students are eating and drinking.
- Lots of signage throughout the building to remind everyone to wear their masks when moving around the Academy, wash hands for 20 seconds.
- Teaching staff providing daily reminders of the measures in place to students and how they are responsible for ensuring they adhere to the measures in order to keep everyone safe.
- Enhanced cleaning of the whole building, with additional cleaners on site and deep cleans undertaken daily in every room. Throughout the day we have a team of cleaners who are cleaning the high contact areas at regular intervals.
- Working closely with Public Health England to ensure that the most up-to-date guidance is followed in every instance

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HOW YOU CAN HELP US

It would really help us if you can ensure that you thoroughly read any letters and messages that we send to you, as everything that you need to know and act on will be there.

If you have not done so already, do please download and activate our Parent App so that you receive communications quickly.

Please try not to worry about rumours that may occur following a positive case within the school - if your child is affected, we WILL contact you as soon as possible to let you know what you need to do. Please remember that we are not able to share medical information about individuals.

We are always here to help, but please be aware that we are dealing with a huge number of telephone calls (for example, we answered 2600 calls in just one day during this week). If you have received a letter or message, please do give it a thorough read, as your question may well be addressed in it.

We wish to thank each of you for supporting your child to continue their education, and for continuing to support the Academy.

Yours faithfully



Mr K Green
Principal

