

## **Advice to All Parents, Staff and Students – 2 Positive cases within the Academy**

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Staff and Students,

We have advised Walsall Council Public Health that there have been 2 confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) within our school. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child should they be worried.

### **What did the Academy do after becoming aware of these individuals?**

The Academy immediately notified the DfE yesterday and worked with Walsall Council public health to analyse the risks to staff and students today. We were advised that the affected student should stay at home for the 10 days. At the present time there are a number of students who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case and they will have been contacted and advised to isolate for 14 days as per government guidance until the 3rd October. There are no staff members who have had to isolate because of this case.

We have also been made aware of a staff member who has been confirmed as positive. Some members of staff have been identified as close contacts. The teacher who is confirmed as positive is self-isolating (staying at home) in line with government guidance. They had, in the two days before this notification, been in contact with some other staff, these staff have now been advised to isolate for 14 days as per government guidance. There are no students required to isolate because of this case.

Today, public health colleagues have made contact with staff members and the affected student, undertaken a robust assessment of risk within the Academy. A meeting was hosted this afternoon by Walsall Public Health with the school and education colleagues in attendance to report these findings and discuss next steps.

The public health team has deemed the risk of infection to other staff and pupils to be minimal due to the extensive and robust precautions within the Academy established for safety of staff and students.

These include:

- Enhanced cleaning in classrooms and across the whole site
- Enhanced sanitisation facilities and encouragement of regular hand washing
- One-way systems
- Strict social bubbles within designated zones at break and lunchtimes
- Staggered lunches
- Different entry points and exits
- Seating plans in every classroom

In addition, we are expecting staff members to wear a face covering in communal areas and we are now highly recommending that students do as well and we ask that you encourage your child to wear

a mask in communal areas as recommended. For parents/guardians we ask you to please purchase and provide a mask for your child in preparation for any changes to government guidance.

We will keep this under review and update parents if there are any changes.

We would ask you to support us in keeping our school safe and would like to remind you of the following;

### What symptoms should I look for?



We all need to remain vigilant by watching out for symptoms of coronavirus. If your child has any of the symptoms then DO NOT send them into school. Please let school reception know, stay at home and self-isolate with your household and book a test immediately. You can do this online by visiting or by telephoning 119.

**Please remember and reassure your child that for most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.**

### How can we reduce the spread of coronavirus?

There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus:



wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds

use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available

wash your hands as soon as you get home

cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze  
put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your

hands afterwards

Ensure you stay 2m away from anyone who you do not live with

Further information is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

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