



## **Advice to All Parents, Staff and Students – Update on Positive Cases Within the Academy**

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Staff and Students,

We have advised Walsall Council Public Health that there have been additional student and staff 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 the student cases?**

The Academy immediately notified and worked with Walsall Council Health Protection Team with each case to analyse the risks to staff and students. Due to the students developing symptoms whilst already being absent from the Academy no students or staff members have had to isolate because of these cases.

### **What did the Academy do after becoming aware of the staff cases?**

Again, the Academy immediately notified and worked with Walsall Council Health Protection Team to analyse the risks to staff and students. After completing our risk assessment, there are currently several members of staff who have been asked to isolate based on these cases as a precautionary measure. The members of staff who confirmed as positive and those identified as contacts, are self-isolating (staying at home) in line with government guidance. There are no students who have been required to isolate because of these cases.

For both student and staff cases, public health colleagues have made contact with staff members and undertaken a robust assessment of risk within the Academy. Discussions have taken place with Walsall Public Health and 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

**Since Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October students in all years will be expected to wear a mask in all communal areas such as: on the yard, on the corridors, changing rooms and in the dining areas when not eating.**

For parents/guardians we ask you to please purchase and provide a mask for your child in preparation for this. We will keep this under review and update parents if there are any further changes. Guidance on mask usage is available in the student protocol on the school website.

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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