



Joseph Leckie
Academy

8th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: New National restrictions – COVID-19

We know this has been a difficult time for all of us and we do not underestimate the importance of the work that we all have done to ensure everyone remains safe. I want to take this opportunity to thank all teachers and support staff at the Academy for the tremendous work that they have done and continue to do to support and protect all of your children and to ensure, as much as possible, the continuity of learning during this challenging time.

The Government have announced New National Restrictions, which you will know came into force from 5th November. These new measures were introduced due to the rise in numbers of people testing positive for COVID-19, this does include a rise in positive cases in Walsall communities.

Under the new national restrictions educational settings, including our Academy, are expected to remain open.

We appreciate that for many of you and your children that this is an extremely worrying time. To ensure that students and staff are as safe as possible we have implemented a wide range of protective measures. Some of these include:

- Different entrances and exits to the site.
- Strict rules regarding social distancing.
- Year group bubbles remaining in different zones.
- Staggered lunches.
- No contact with each other e.g. shaking hands or play fighting.
- Lanyards indicating your child's year group for ease of identification and with Key information on to keep them safe.
- One-way systems around the Academy and moving on the left hand side of corridors/staircases.
- Double and single lessons to reduce movement around the Academy.
- Increased hand washing and hand sanitising around the Academy.
- Wearing of Masks which is compulsory in all communal areas, unless medically exempt.
(We introduced this some time ago, but it is now part of the Government requirements across the whole country)

As we have now moved into the second half of the Autumn term, we would like to remind you of some key points from public health guidance. These measures can help protect your child, your family, other students and Academy staff:

Your child should not leave home if they have symptoms. If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild then please do not send them to school. We appreciate that you don't want to let your child miss any education, but to stop the spread of the virus they must stay at home (self-isolate) and you

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should book them a test. You can do this by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by dialling 119.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- **A high temperature** this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A continuous cough** this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss of sense of taste or smell** this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Once they have had their test results please inform the Academy, we can then take appropriate action if it is positive or discuss their return date if it is negative. If someone else in the household has a positive result, then you need to inform us immediately and all family members will then need to self-isolate for 14 days. If you are unsure whether or not to send your child in, please call and discuss with a member of the Attendance Team.

Do not let your child leave your home if you/they have been told they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

You/they may get this via email or text from the Academy, or a text, email or call from the NHS Test, Track and Trace.

If a notification is received, your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. This means they must not leave their home to go anywhere. If they get any symptoms whilst self-isolating they must get a test. It is a legal duty to self-isolate and you could face fines if your child does not stay in the home.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

The Academy will take quick action as soon as we are aware of a confirmed case and we will contact you and inform you of what you and your child needs to do. Please remember that when your child is self-isolating, the Academy will continue to be set work via Teams, Stream Recordings, SharePoint and Ruler. Your child should log in at the times they would normally have their lessons and complete work to ensure that they do not fall behind.

For more information and guidance please refer to the help sheet on the Academy website – “Absence Due to Covid-19 Help for Parents”.

Face Coverings - Face coverings **MUST BE WORN** by all adults and students when moving around the Academy, outside classrooms, on corridors, in changing rooms/toilets, etc. In addition, they must wear a mask on the yard and in dining facilities, unless they are eating or drinking. We are actively encouraging students to wear masks in the classroom to protect each other from the spread of the virus. This is expected for years 12 and 13.

To reduce the transmission of this virus we ask for your support in encouraging your child to wear a mask while at school, as well as before and after school when they are mixing with others from outside their household or support bubble.

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Students should wear masks correctly (covering their nose and mouth) not touch them whilst wearing them and store them in a plastic bag when removed.

If your child is medically exempt from wearing a mask, you should have already informed their Head of Year and requested an exempt sticker for their Lanyard.

Hand Hygiene - please reinforce with your child the importance of good hand hygiene. We frequently encourage students to wash their hands or sanitise them regularly, after arrival at school, break times, lunchtimes, and lesson changeovers.

Respiratory Hygiene - please reinforce with your child the importance of good respiratory hygiene. We regularly encourage students to avoiding coughing on anyone and to use tissues and dispose of them in the correct bins around the Academy and wash/sanitise their hands after. **Catch It, Bin It, Kill It.**

Social Distancing - Please reinforce with them, as we do on a regular basis, that to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus they should reduce the amount of time that are in face to face contact with others. Direct close contact means face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time within 1m, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation or unprotected physical contact (skin to skin). Where possible a 2m social distance should be maintained.

Other Key advice for you and your child:

Travel - Your child is still able to travel to school in a car, but this should only be with members of your household or support bubble. If your child must travel to school via a taxi or public transport, they should wear a mask at all times. Wherever possible, you should encourage your child to walk or cycle to school.

Staying at home and Essential Specific Purposes - You and your child should stay at home and avoid meeting people you do not live with, except for essential specific purposes, for example, attending school/college/university, essential work that cannot be done from home, shopping for food/medicines, medical appointments, legal obligations, exercise, attending a place of worship for individual prayer, etc.

You and your child must not meet with socially or undertake any activities people outside of your household or support bubble. The only exception is to exercise or meet in a public outdoor space, at a 2m social distance, with **ONE** person from outside your household or support bubble.

There is detailed guidance which clarifies what you and your family can and cannot do:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

If you need help with accessing this information, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy. We all need to do all we can to help reduce the spread and transmission of this disease.

Please stay safe and take care.



Rachel Cook
Acting Principal