



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

4th October 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Staff and Students,

We have advised Walsall Council Public Health that since Friday we have been made aware of 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 Walsall Council Health Protection Team and followed previous advice with each case to analyse the risks to staff and students. We advised the affected students that they should stay at home for the 10 days and follow government guidance. After completing our own internal track and trace for each of the cases, there are a number of students who have been in prolonged contact with the confirmed student cases and they have been contacted and advised to isolate for 14 days as per government guidance. Each student/parent has been notified of their date of return based on the individual cases. There are several staff members who have had to follow government guidance and isolate because of their contact with these student cases as a precautionary measure.

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

Again, the Academy immediately notified and followed guidance from Walsall Council Health Protection Team to analyse the risks to staff and students. The member of staff who confirmed as positive is self-isolating (staying at home) in line with government guidance. There are currently several members of staff who have been deemed as being in close contact with these cases so are now isolating as per government guidance. They had, in the two days before this notification, not been in close contact with students, so there aren't any students required to isolate.

Public health colleagues have regular contact with our staff members and have 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 ever evolving strategies to protect all of our staff.

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

**From 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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