

Headteacher: Dr. J Bartlett – NPQH, PGCE, D.Phil, M.Chem **Specialisms:** Mathematics

23rd October 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I'm sure you are all looking forward to the half term break, as we break up this afternoon and re-open on Tuesday 3rd November (Monday 2nd November is an Inset day so we are closed to students).

I would like to remind you that we have sent parents our new Academy Day timetable which begins on 3rd November, with revised start/finish times as detailed in our letter sent home on Wednesday 21st October.

Once again, we would like to reassure you of the measures in place to keep students and staff safe in the academy, and the actions we take in the event of a positive Covid 19 test result among our community.

Keeping our children safe

To reduce any impact of increased cases in the community, we are:

- Thoroughly cleaning the academy every day
- Keeping pupils in 'bubbles' to reduce wider contact within the academy
- Helping staff and pupils to socially distance - two metres where possible
- Making it possible for everyone to wash or sanitise their hands regularly
- Encouraging pupils to use tissues to 'catch it, bin it, kill it', if they sneeze or cough
- Making sure everyone wears a face covering when moving around buildings, if they can

How can you help prevent COVID-19 from spreading?

We want to thank you for all the precautions you are already taking as it's making a big difference and is helping to stop the virus spreading. Please help your family, friends or people who you work with to understand how important it is for them to do the following:

- Keep a safe distance from others
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds
- Wear a face covering in enclosed spaces if you can
- No one in your household should leave home if any other person has symptoms
- If you have symptoms, stay at home and book a free test – visit nhs.co.uk or call 119
- Reduce the number of people you have contact with

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Symptoms of COVID-19

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- High temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

Please be reassured that for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, because the virus can spread easily, if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms first appeared.

All other household members, even if they are well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in your household became ill. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a free test which can be arranged via nhs.co.uk or by calling 119. We encourage symptomatic individuals to get tested at the earliest opportunity.

What do we do when informed about a positive case within the academy?

Whenever we are made aware of a positive case amongst the pupil or staff body, we immediately start the work of identifying anyone who may have had close contact with the affected individual. This is possible as pupils and staff have been arranged into bubbles, enabling us to identify their precise movements and seating arrangements.

We will at the same time be in contact with Public Health England and the Department for Education to report the cases. Both bodies will advise us of the actions that are required, including whether anyone should self-isolate as a precaution.

What is likely to happen over the coming weeks?

It is, of course, impossible to predict the number of positive cases we are likely to see in the coming weeks, but please rest assured that we will keep you informed. However, like many other schools and academies across the country, we are unfortunately beginning to hear about more positive cases within our communities.

We understand that some of you will be feeling anxious about the virus, but I would like to reassure you that our priority remains the health, wellbeing and education of your child/ren, and nothing will detract from that.



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Keep in contact with us over the half term holiday

Should your child or anyone in your household test positive for the virus or be advised to self-isolate as a precaution, please let us know using the email address shenley.enquiry@e-act.org.uk, even if it's over the half-term holiday.

It is vitally important that you let us know about a positive test or requirement for self-isolation, as it may result in your child being advised to return to the academy at a slightly later date as a precaution.

Thank you for all your support in helping to stop the spread of the virus, and please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Lastly, I wish you all an enjoyable half term break and look forward to the students returning to academy on 3rd November.

Kind regards,

Dr J Bartlett
Headteacher

