

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

8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear parent or carer,

I hope my message finds you safe and well.

I am writing to you today as there have unfortunately been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the academy community. The affected members of staff are now self-isolating for a period of 10 days, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them a swift recovery.

Public Health England have advised that individuals who have been in close contact with the affected members of staff must also self-isolate for 14 days. We are therefore working closely with the families of the relevant children and staff members who are being asked to stay at home as a precaution.

### **Year 8 and 9 students to continue their learning from home for two weeks**

After careful consideration, we have had to make the difficult decision to ask our year 8 and 9 cohorts to stay at home for the next two weeks and continue their learning using our online platforms. I would like to assure you that we have not taken this decision lightly. We do so in order to ensure the safety of our children and so that they continue to receive the best possible teaching as we deal with higher than normal staff absences whilst colleagues self-isolate as a precaution.

Provided they are fit and well, we expect to see our year 8 and 9 students back in academy on Monday 23 November.

### **Students in years 7, 10 and 11 should attend academy as normal**

Students in years 7, 10 and 11 should attend academy as normal, but will have slightly amended classroom timetables for the next two weeks. Please rest assured that these students will continue to work with the staff they need for all pastoral and educational support.

### **Continuing our year 8 and 9 teaching without disruption**

Unless unwell, we expect our year 8 and 9 students to continue their lessons and personal study from home. Students will have access to their curriculum and the close support and guidance of their teachers through our online platforms.

We have plans in place which mean that year 8 and 9 students can continue their learning without disruption, giving them daily/close communication with their teachers through live

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

lessons delivered through Microsoft Teams. They will continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, in line with their academy timetables where possible.

We will be taking a daily register, and our teachers will continue to closely monitor progression, adjusting pace or difficulty where necessary. Put simply, we will ensure that our year 8 and 9 students can access the same high level of educational provision available to students in academy.

### **For students entitled to free school meals**

We will also ensure that those students who are eligible for free school meals can continue to access them. We will communicate details of this to parents as soon as possible this week.

### **Thank you for your support**

I completely appreciate and understand that our plans may cause a significant amount of disruption to our year 8 and 9 parents and carers. However, I must reiterate that we have not taken this decision lightly, and this has been done after considering all other alternatives.

Furthermore, I appreciate that some parents and carers may be feeling concerned about the possible impact of the virus in the coming weeks. I would like to reassure you that we continue to work closely with our local Public Health team, who have made clear that our safety measures are proving vital in helping to prevent the spread of infection in the academy.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and ask that you please contact us via [shenley.enquiry@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:shenley.enquiry@E-ACT.org.uk) should you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jayne Bartlett  
Head Teacher