

8th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our students this week, firstly for their Induction session and then on Thursday the full return of all students. Thank you for all your understanding as we reopen in a careful and considered manner.

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that schools minimise the potential risks of spreading the virus. Anyone with symptoms can [book a test](#). Alternatively you can do this over the telephone using the NHS 119 number.

The [most important symptoms of coronavirus](#) (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new 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 high temperature (this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If it has been recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse) then you should also complete a test.

As schools across England return, students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off from the Academy and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

However students **must not** come into school if they have symptoms of coronavirus. Students will be sent home to self-isolate if they develop symptoms in school. Parents will be contacted if students are displaying symptoms which could be attributed to COVID-19.

If your child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus, or if anyone in your household develops symptoms of coronavirus they must [self-isolate](#) and secure a test. Please inform the school of your child's absence by telephoning the student absence line (020 7376 3019, and choose option 1). If you inform us that your child is self-isolating but otherwise in good health, work will be set by their class teachers on Google Classroom for them to complete. Please inform the Academy immediately of the results of any test and follow the guidance below.

*If your child tests negative, feels well and no longer has symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they feel better. Other members of the household can stop self-isolating.*

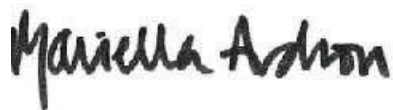
*If someone tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.*

Please can I ask that you reiterate the importance of regular handwashing, or hand sanitizer use, with your children at home. Good hand hygiene, along with following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' for tissues, will make the biggest difference to minimising the risk of COVID-19. The Academy policy about facemasks follows government guidance:

- Students and staff are allowed to wear face masks in communal areas.
- Students and staff are not allowed to wear face masks in lessons.
- If students are wearing a face mask in communal areas, they must wear it correctly - it must cover their mouth and their nose.
- When students are not wearing their face masks, they must remove them completely - they should not be shoved under their chin, hanging off their ear etc.

Thank you for your ongoing support. This is a new and different time for us all but by working together we will ensure that transmission of the virus within our own community is limited as much as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. Ardron  
Principal