



Great Wyrley Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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Ref:mne/gwaadmin/update letter Oct 2021

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Place of registration: England

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter October, I thought it important to write to you with updated information on how we are trying to keep everyone safe and well at Great Wyrley Academy. In general, the Department for Education COVID-19 guidance for schools remains and we update our risk assessment and practices upon receiving any updates.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our pupils and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular hand-washing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

- **Face coverings:** There are some important changes to our expectations for the use of face coverings from Monday 4 October-
 - 1) All students catching the school coach to school should wear a face covering when on the coach
 - 2) Sixth form students must wear face coverings when indoors in communal spaces (i.e. everywhere indoors except for in lessons). This also applies on the minibus shuttle transport and when attending Cheslyn Hay Academy for lessons.
 - 3) All visitors to the school will be expected to wear a face covering unless exempt.

For all other students and members of staff, wearing a face covering will not be made compulsory for the time being, however we will change this if relevant advice is given to us. I would highly recommend that students have face covering with them and wear them in communal spaces.

- **Year group zones:** As you will be aware, we have a hybrid system in place in school now which means students remain in Year group zones. We are maintaining this approach to keep student mixing to a minimum.
- **Lateral Flow Testing:** Originally, guidance was for the staff and students to continue with twice-weekly Lateral Flow Testing at home until the end of September. This will continue



in October as covid rates in South Staffordshire and the West Midlands are on the increase. Tutors and Heads of Year will ensure that test kits are distributed as required. Please continue to use the Test Register platform to register each test.

- **Hand washing / Sanitising:** We will be continuing to emphasise the importance of keeping our hands clean to all students. All classrooms will be re-equipped with wipes for surfaces and hand sanitiser to use upon entering and leaving lessons.
- **Ventilation:** All classrooms will remain well-ventilated with windows ajar. Students are not permitted to wear coats in lessons and therefore should wear the school jumper under their blazers (no hoodies allowed). We will review this as we head into winter.
- **Positive cases / symptoms:** As per the government guidance, should a student or member of staff test positive for Covid then they will have to self-isolate for the requisite amount of time. Close contacts will be sought by test and trace- not the school – and these people are required to have a PCR test. Should your child have a positive Lateral Flow Test then they must then have a PCR test and await the results before either isolating or returning to school as appropriate. Please contact Mrs Herrington in school if this affects you and you are unsure of the procedures and the expectation to attend school.
- **Remote Learning:** If there is a need to self-isolate then work will be provided via Google classrooms as previously. As this is the way that we set our homework, students are all adept at accessing and completing work in this way.

As was the case at the start of the pandemic when we had to adjust to a new way of life, these changes again may create some uncertainty as we all continue to adapt. However, we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best outcomes for students, staff and our wider community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school; we will do all we can to support you.

Yours sincerely



Ian Moreton
Headteacher