

11th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Phased Return to School - Update

Earlier this week, we wrote to you via email and posted hard copy to give you the detailed arrangements for the phased return to school for students from Monday 15th June. This letter clearly highlighted when your child is due to attend and the arrangements we have put in place to ensure that the Academy is a safe place for both staff and students. If you have not yet received this letter, please check any 'junk' and 'spam' folders, before emailing info@wmgacademy.org.uk, where a new copy can be provided.

To be clear, students studying BTEC Engineering will not have any onsite sessions in this subject during the first phase of our return. This is due to the high volume of coursework that can be completed safely from home, alongside the recently successfully launched online-taught programme, which has been engaged with well by students. Engineering teachers have already communicated with students directly about these dedicated online sessions that will cover the final theory elements of the course.

If you do not wish you for child to attend these face-to-face sessions, please email info@wmgacademy.org.uk and provide a reason for this planned absence. It is important to note that although registers will be taken, absence for any reason is counted as authorised and parents will not be penalised for not sending their child to school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Behaviour Expectations

At the end of this letter, we have included an addendum to the Academy's behaviour policy. We have introduced some additional behaviour expectations that students need to be aware of during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly to ensure social distancing guidelines are adhered to. As such, we ask parents to have a conversation with their child to ensure they understand the need to adhere to these expectations. Parents should also direct their child to Google Classroom, where Mr Brady has released a video introducing the new measures to safeguard staff and students against COVID-19.

Once you have read the behaviour expectations, we ask that you click [here](#) to confirm that you and your child agree that they will adhere to these whilst attending face-to-face sessions.

Onsite Visitors

As part of our increased health and safety measures, visitors are not permitted onsite or into the building. If, for any reason, parents need to come to the Academy, we ask that they call the Reception on 02476 464661 who will advise on the best course of action.

Small School

The Academy's small school provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers will continue to run on a daily basis. Students who regularly attend this provision will be expected to join their 'bubbles' for face-to-face sessions on their allocated day; however, they may continue to attend small school for the remaining four days of the week.

Ongoing Communication

Please be reminded that if you need to contact the Academy throughout this period, we recommend doing so by email to info@wmgacademy.org.uk. Our phone lines are now monitored on a daily basis,

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but whilst we continue to operate a skeleton staff, you will receive a response to email enquires far sooner. Safeguarding concerns should include the phrase 'CONFIDENTIAL – SAFEGUARDING' in the email subject line. Please remember that any parental communications are also available on our website by clicking [here](#).

As teachers, we are very excited to be able to welcome some students back into the Academy from Monday. This has been a very strange time for students, staff and parents and we want to applaud our students for the maturity with which they have handled it.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and cooperation and please continue to 'stay alert' and protect yourselves and your loved ones.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr M Brady
Associate Principal

APPENDIX 1 – Behaviour Policy Addendum during COVID-19 Pandemic

- 1.1 The WMG Academy is obligated to follow all government guidance related to COVID-19 and ensure the concept of social distancing, procedures related to hygiene, being alert and staying safe are applied at all times.
- 1.2 To ensure the safety of learners, staff and wider family networks, all rules must be followed from the time learners arrive at the academy to the time they return home.
- 1.3 It is hoped that learners have an appreciation and the maturity to recognise the severity of the situation and act responsibly. Any behaviour that increases the risk of infection or creates undue distress will be considered as a sanctionable behaviour. The academy will decide, based on the evidence related to the incident, if guidance, re-education or the application of sanctions is appropriate to mitigate any risk that may be presented by a learner's behaviour.
- 1.4 This policy is in addition to the existing Behaviour Policy and defines behaviours in relation to COVID-19 and keeping people safe.

2. Sanctions

- 2.1 The sanction of isolation or exclusion will be considered regardless of the explained intent by the learner, e.g. if, when a learner is asked to explain their behaviour, it is justified by the learner as a 'joke'.
- 2.2 Learners who demonstrate any of the behaviours below may be isolated from other learners to ensure that people are kept safe:
 - Coughing in the direction of another learner with the intent to spread infection or cause fear of infection.
 - Bullying behaviour regarding COVID-19 towards another learner.
 - Throwing of any object at another learner with the intent to spread infection or cause fear of infection.
 - Deliberate movement out of the designated areas the learners have been given to work within.
 - Refusal to follow a reasonable request to wash hands or sanitise hands/ equipment.
 - Not taking reasonable precautions to prevent unnecessary contact or close proximity with others.
 - A refusal to follow any reasonable request to follow the rules and procedures that have been brought in by WMG Academy to protect learners, staff and families.
- 2.3 Fixed term and permanent exclusions will be considered for the following behaviours:
 - Spitting at another learner with intent to spread infection or cause fear of infection.
 - Racial or verbal abuse with a COVID-19 aspect to it.
 - Wiping of any body part on another learner with the intent to spread infection or cause fear.
 - Threatening behaviour towards a member of staff and not respecting their personal space.
 - Having specific intent and acting in a way that causes distress to other learners or staff in relation to COVID-19.
 - Consistently and persistently refusing to co-operate with the rules and procedures that have been brought in by the academy to protect learners, staff and families.

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