

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: Partial Closure of WMG Academy Following a Confirmed Positive Case of COVID-19**

As you will now be aware, earlier today we made the difficult decision to close the Academy to Years 10 and 11 as part of our response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the Academy community. We are writing now to clarify the situation for all year groups and advise on the arrangements for the continuation of learning, albeit from home, for those students who have been asked to self-isolate.

We have also received a small number of queries surrounding our decision to ask students to remain at home until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September, rather than for a full 14-day period. The advice we have been given by the Department for Education and Public Health England is that people who have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should isolate for 14 days since they last had contact. In this case, the confirmed case was last in attendance at the Academy on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, and so the 14-day period ends on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Due to the national testing shortage that we saw last week, we have only received confirmation of this positive case this morning, and this is why the decision to ask Years 10 and 11 to stay at home was taken today.

**Years 12 and 13**

Students in Years 12 and 13 are not affected by the partial closure. They should continue to attend lessons onsite as normal and staff will be in attendance to teach these lessons.

**Years 10 and 11**

All students in Years 10 and 11 are being told to self-isolate. This means they should remain at home until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Students who have been told to self-isolate will be able to return to the Academy on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Students in Years 10 and 11 are expected to join their lessons online via Google Meet. Teachers will be sending students invitations containing the weblink needed to join these lessons. We ask that parents ensure students have access to the necessary equipment to take part in these sessions. If you need IT/technical support to access online learning, please email the Academy via [info@wmgacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@wmgacademy.org.uk).

Directed Study, Enrichment, Intervention and RSHE lessons will not take place online and these will resume when students return during the week of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Similarly, we have had to make some adaptations to the usual day structure to facilitate online lessons:

Onsite [55-minute lessons]		Online [45-minute lessons]	
Period 1	08.30 – 09.25	Period 1	<b>08.30 – 09.15</b>
Period 2	09.25 – 10.20	Period 2	<b>09.30 – 10.15</b>
Break	10.20 – 10.45	Break	
Period 3	10.45 – 11.40	Period 3	<b>10.45 – 11.30</b>

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Period 4	11.40 – 12.35		Period 4	<b>11.45 – 12.30</b>
Period 5	12.35 – 13.30		Period 5	<b>12.45 - 13.30</b>
Lunch	13.30 – 14.05		Lunch	
Period 6 (PAS)	14.05 – 14.25		Period 6 (PAS)	
Period 7	14.25 – 15.20		Period 7	<b>14.30 - 15.15</b>
Break*	15.20 – 15.35		Break*	
Period 8*	15.35 – 16.30		Period 8*	<b>15.30 - 16.15</b>

\* Sessions identified with the asterisk do not take place on Monday or Friday

### Advice on Self-Isolating

Students who have been told to self-isolate will be able to return to the Academy on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September; in the meantime, they should remain at home. Other members of their household, including siblings who attend the Academy's sixth form, are able to continue as normal.

At this point in time you do not need to be unduly concerned, however should your son or daughter exhibit any of the following symptoms please book a coronavirus test and keep them and any other members of their household at home until you receive the result:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child does show symptoms, we would ask that you keep the Academy informed, including the result of any COVID-19 tests, even if they are negative. It is imperative that the Academy is aware of any suspected or confirmed cases so we can limit the spread as necessary and identify anybody else who should self-isolate as a precaution.

### Next Steps

We understand that the need to partially close the Academy at such short notice may cause some concern and inconvenience, but please be assured that we are doing all we can in line with the guidance we have received to safeguard the wellbeing of staff and students. This is always our priority and we appreciate your understanding, support and cooperation at this time.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's main Reception on 02476 464661 or via email to [info@wmgacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@wmgacademy.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague  
Executive Principal



Mr M Brady  
Associate Principal

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