

25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: COVID-19 Update from WMG Academy**

Firstly, we would like to thank the WMG Academy community for its unwavering support this week. Since Monday afternoon, students in Key Stage 4 have been working remotely following our decision to switch to online learning as part of our response to a single and isolated confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19). The vast majority of students have adapted to this seamlessly and we are grateful to students for their professionalism and to parents for their flexibility and understanding.

**We are pleased to confirm that, at the time of writing, we have received no further positive test results and we are now in a position to welcome students back to onsite learning from 8.30am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

With this in mind, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students of some key information.

**Academy Day Structure**

From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Academy will revert to its usual working day. This includes onsite lessons for all students in line with each individual's timetable. For clarity, we have included the timings of the Academy day below:

| <b>Onsite [55-minute lessons]</b> |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Period 1                          | 08.30 – 09.25 |
| Period 2                          | 09.25 – 10.20 |
| Break                             | 10.20 – 10.45 |
| Period 3                          | 10.45 – 11.40 |
| Period 4                          | 11.40 – 12.35 |
| Period 5                          | 12.35 – 13.30 |
| Lunch                             | 13.30 – 14.05 |
| Period 6 (PAS)                    | 14.05 – 14.25 |
| Period 7                          | 14.25 – 15.20 |
| Break*                            | 15.20 – 15.35 |
| Period 8*                         | 15.35 – 16.30 |

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

**Advice on Keeping Safe**

Asking students to work from home is never the first choice for any teacher as there is no substitute for time in the classroom; however, under some circumstances, it will be necessary for students to work from home if it will slow the spread of COVID-19 within the Academy community.

Please be assured that we have a comprehensive risk assessment in place and that our building is 'COVID secure'. We have been very impressed with the maturity with which students have handled

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the measures in place to protect them; however, we ask that parents remind their children of the following:

- Students in all year groups are required to wear a face mask/covering at all times when in communal areas of the Academy building. This includes the main corridors, staircases and breakout areas, as well as the atrium, reception and canteen. Parents of students who are exempt from wearing a face mask/covering for medical reasons should make this known to the Academy by emailing [info@wmgacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@wmgacademy.org.uk).
- Students should make use of the hand sanitising stations around the building. In line with guidance from the Department for Education, students should wash or sanitise their hands every time they enter or leave the building, move between learning bases and before and after they eat.
- Wherever possible, students should socially distance themselves from their peers, learners in other academic year groups and staff. This is crucial to ensure that we minimise the number of 'close contacts' every student has to enable us to effectively isolate bubbles should any further positive cases of COVID-19 be identified.

### Advice on Self-Isolating

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. 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.

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.

### Next Steps

Once again, we appreciate the support we have received from parents and students this week. The wellbeing of the WMG Academy community is always our priority. We are looking forward to seeing all of our students back in the Academy on Monday morning and know we will enjoy your full support as we move forward.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague  
Executive Principal



Mr M Brady  
Associate Principal

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