

17th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Switch to Online Learning for All Years with Immediate Effect

Please accept our apologies that this letter has reached you late in the day but we are writing at our earliest opportunity following conversations with Coventry City Council and Public Health England earlier this evening.

Following a small number of positive cases within the Academy community over the last seven days, we have taken the decision, alongside local public health experts, to ask all students in all year groups to work from home from tomorrow (Wednesday 18th November). We anticipate that the Academy will reopen from Wednesday 25th November.

A decision to ask any number of students to leave the Academy and to work from home is a decision that we never take lightly. As always, we are grateful to parents for their support and ask for your continued patience and understanding as we move forward. The national picture surrounding COVID-19 is very volatile and rapidly evolving and we find ourselves having to make decisions very quickly.

Return to the Academy

Initially, we anticipate that students will be able to return to the Academy for face-to-face teaching from Wednesday 25th November 2020; however, we are continually reviewing the situation and will update parents again later this week.

With this in mind, please note the following arrangements for returning to onsite learning:

- **Key Stage 4 students who are NOT self-isolating** will continue to access online learning as they have been doing this week. These students will be able to return to onsite learning on Wednesday 25th November.
- **Key Stage 5 students who are NOT self-isolating** will now switch to online learning. These students will be able to return to onsite learning on Wednesday 25th November.
- **Students in all year groups who are self-isolating** should continue to do so. If your child's period of self-isolation finishes on or before Tuesday 24th November, they can return to onsite teaching on Wednesday 25th November. If your child's period of isolation ends on or after Wednesday 25th November, they should return to onsite learning on the next working day.

Symptoms of Coronavirus

There is no reason for parents or students to be unduly concerned; however, we would like to remind parents that testing for coronavirus is readily available if required. Should your son or daughter exhibit any of the following symptoms please book a coronavirus test and keep them and any siblings at home until you receive the result:

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- 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.

Online Learning

Learners in all year groups will be able to access online lessons from Period 1 on Wednesday 18th November 2020 if they haven't been doing so already, but those students already invited to attend 'small school' may continue to do so.

Students are expected to join their lessons online via Google Meet and students already have the joining instructions for these sessions. We ask that parents ensure that 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.

Directed Study, Enrichment, Intervention and RSHE lessons will not take place online and these will resume when students return. 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	08.30 – 09.15
Period 2	09.25 – 10.20	Period 2	09.30 – 10.15
Break	10.20 – 10.45	Break	
Period 3	10.45 – 11.40	Period 3	10.45 – 11.30
Period 4	11.40 – 12.35	Period 4	11.45 – 12.30
Period 5	12.35 – 13.30	Period 5	12.45 - 13.30
Lunch	13.30 – 14.05	Lunch	
Period 6 (PAS)	14.05 – 14.25	Period 6 (PAS)	
Period 7	14.25 – 15.20	Period 7	14.30 - 15.15
Break*	15.20 – 15.35	Break*	
Period 8*	15.35 – 16.30	Period 8*	15.30 - 16.15

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

Free School Meals

Those students who are in receipt of free school meals and haven't yet received a voucher should contact the Finance team by emailing finance@wmgacademy.org.uk.

Next Steps

We would like to thank parents and students for their patience and support at this time. You will understand that this is not a decision which has been taken lightly; however, we continue to work with local public health experts to minimise the risk of coronavirus to our staff and students and to

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safeguard the wellbeing of learners whilst ensuring they retain access to a high-quality, broad and balanced curriculum.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy by calling 02476464661 or emailing info@wmgacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr M Brady
Associate Principal

Public Health England Advice

Please see the link to: Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>