



ST/KJP
13th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well and I would once again like to thank you for your continued support over the last few months.

I wanted to write to you today following the announcement that local authority leaders, directors of Public Health and the national Government have made the decision to place Walsall into local lockdown from Wednesday 14th October following an increase in rates of transmission of COVID-19 in the area.

The local circumstances have meant that schools must now abide by safety restrictions prepared in the instance of government intervention in local areas, as is now the case here in Walsall. This therefore applies to our academy. Ensuring everyone's health, safety and wellbeing, whilst maintaining a consistent education for our students with minimal disruption, has been and continues to be our absolute priority for this academic year. We are closely following all Government and local Government guidance, and as a result of our robust contingency planning we already have the necessary preparations in place to appropriately respond to a range of scenarios relating to a local lockdown.

Moving into "Tier 2" will see very little change to how we are already safely operating the academy, with various robust and precautionary safety measures in place. We will remain fully open, full time, to all students. However, in line with Government guidance, from Wednesday 14th October face coverings must now be worn by all students and staff when moving around the premises, including corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. Since the return to school in September, we have provided students and staff with the option of wearing a face covering at times during the school day, which some have chosen to do. We are aware some students are exempt from wearing face coverings for medical conditions. If this is the case for your child, please contact us to let us know.

The academy has a small supply of disposable masks to distribute to those students who are unable to obtain a face covering by Wednesday. We do expect the use of reusable masks or daily disposables, provided by yourselves, going forward. Face coverings must be re-usable, as plain as possible or of the daily disposable variety.

We will be continuing to operate the many other robust safety measures we have in place including social distancing, social bubbles, staggered school days, and increased hygiene and cleaning protocols to help limit any spread of the virus.

We do not yet know how long Walsall will be in a local lockdown, or whether we will progress to the further Government Tiers should the transmission rate of COVID-19 continue to increase locally. If we were to move to the next Tier that would require a mix of on-site and remote learning as part of a rota system. However, should there be any changes or updates to the current Tier we will contact you immediately.

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As you know, we have done all we can to ensure that your child has the best possible start to the new academic year, following an extraordinary few months, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in helping us do this. The health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and wider school community will continue to be our priority, but we will also do everything we can to minimise any disruption to your child's education. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Turnbull
Principal

