

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to let you know that we have received updated guidance from Walsall Local Authority. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to remain high in Walsall, with a gradual weekly increase during the past month. The majority of positive cases are currently in school aged children and young people.

We hope you will understand and support the need for caution at this time. The Local Authority are advising education settings in Walsall to consider re-introducing some COVID-19 secure measures. We currently have several control measures in place to reduce the potential risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the Academy. These include:

- All staff, visitors and students are allowed to wear a face covering in all communal areas unless exempt. This includes when moving between classrooms and when in the Dining Hall.
- Staff teach with a 2m distance for the majority of the time and when closer work is required the time is limited to reduce close contact transmission
- Considered risk and benefit of external visitors being on site
- COVID-19 management for PE lessons and changing which allows students to wear PE kit on the days they have practical PE lessons
- Staggered, separate break and lunch times for all year groups
- Ensuring any visits out of school are to COVID-secure premises
- Increased cleaning including staff disinfecting tables between classes
- Increased ventilation of the building - doors and windows are open where appropriate

The Local Authority advice on how you can help to keep education and family life moving in Walsall, asks you to:

- Keep your child off school and book a PCR test if they have COVID symptoms; high temperature, continuous cough, loss or change to taste or smell
- Carry out twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home (children aged 12+ only).
- Book a PCR test for everyone in your household if one member tests positive
- Follow hands-face-space and fresh air. Try to meet outdoors where possible, or if indoors, open windows, wear a face covering in crowded places and wash your hands regularly.

Even if you have had your COVID-19 vaccinations, by making the above part of your routine, you will be helping your school community to continue doing the things they enjoy and help stop the virus spreading. Whilst the risk of serious illness from COVID-19 is low for children and young people, it is important that we take proactive steps to reduce the spread of infection, bring cases down and minimise further disruption to education.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Stuart Turnbull  
Principal

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