



# THE WELLS ACADEMY

*Be kind. Work hard. Achieve greatness*

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23/11/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well and you are staying safe and healthy during this unprecedented time.

As you will know from our recent letters, we are continuing to work closely with Public Health England to help manage both the Academy's and the wider response to Covid-19, as cases rise across the community.

In line with the latest government and Public Health England advice, any affected pupils and staff, identified through our contact tracing process, as well as the NHS Track and Trace notification system, are now self-isolating as a precautionary measure.

Due to positive year 10 cases and the number of staff who are self-isolating, as a precautionary measure and in line with government guidelines, **we have taken the difficult decision to close our Year 10 bubble from Tuesday 24th November, with a view to welcoming these pupils back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, due to staffing shortages.**

Please be reassured that if you are receiving this letter, your child **did not** come into close proximity with any affected persons within the Academy and **does not need** to self-isolate.

We appreciate this may be a difficult time however, the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils, parents, staff and the wider school community must remain our top priority.

To ensure as minimal disruption to learning as possible, from Tuesday 24th November, your child's lessons will be uploaded to Microsoft TEAMS which they can access via their school login. This can be found at the following website [gat.airhead.io](http://gat.airhead.io). Login details have been sent home with each year 10 student. Further information will follow.

Please do let us know if you do not have access to a laptop/tablet or the internet, and we will support where we can. We will also ensure each student leaves today with a suitable work pack for next week. Additionally, if you are in receipt of free school meals, we will be in touch over the next couple of days to ensure we can get vouchers to you.

I appreciate this may cause some concern but I want to reassure you that, as an Academy, we take the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and the wider school, community extremely seriously and are working in partnership with the local public health authority to ensure the appropriate steps are taken.

We are also working closely with the Department for Education, and the Trust, to ensure the risk of further transmission continues to be minimised as much as possible, and we will remain in contact with our parents and carers to provide regular updates and information.



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE



GREATNESS

Additionally, our contact tracing and robust health and safety measures have allowed us to effectively respond to this matter and ensure the Academy continues to be safe for all other pupils and staff, and your child should continue to attend if they remain in good health and not show any COVID-19 symptoms. In the meantime, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the steps that we can all take to reduce the risk of spreading infection. These simple measures are:

If your child, a household member or a member of your support bubble develops any of the following symptoms, we ask that you notify the school immediately and arrange a test by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119.

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

If your child develops any of these symptoms, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

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

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

As a community, we can also help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 by:

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

I know these are challenging circumstances for our pupils, staff and wider school community and would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy or use the following link to access further information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Shepherd - Proud to be Principal of The Wells Academy**

