



THE WELLS ACADEMY

Be Kind. Work Hard. Achieve Greatness

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27/11/20

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.

Last week we closed our Year 7 & 10 bubbles for a week and two weeks respectively due to staffing shortages. We intend for Year 7 students to return to the Academy on Monday 30th November and Year 10 students to return on Monday 7th December. Due to the isolation period for staff and students being 14 days, we are still experiencing high levels of staff absence. In order for the Academy to be safely operational and, due to the number of staff and Year 11 students who are self-isolating, as a precautionary measure and in line with government guidelines **we have taken the difficult decision to close our Year 11 bubble as of Monday 30th November, with a view to welcoming these pupils back on Monday 7th December.** This decision is not based on high infections rates and is due to staffing levels.

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 Monday 30th November, **your child's lessons will be taught live on Microsoft TEAMS** which they can access via their school login. This can be found at the following website gat.airhead.io. Login details have been sent home with each Year 11 students. The timetable for Year 11 will be shared with parents and students will be expected to log on to their lessons in line with their normal timetable.

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.



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE



GREATNESS

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.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Shepherd', enclosed in a light blue oval.

Mr Shepherd - Proud to be Principal of The Wells Academy

