



THE WELLS ACADEMY

Be kind. Work hard. Achieve greatness

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09/10/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to say thank you all for your support with the measures we put in place in response to a single positive COVID test of a pupil in Year 10. Your support means a lot to the Academy and is very much appreciated.

We have not had any further confirmed cases reported to us today and therefore the **Year 10 bubble will remain open** to all pupils other than the small group who have been directed to self-isolate. **The rest of the year group bubbles will also remain open** next week, with us breaking up for our two week half term break on Friday, 16th October. All pupils will be expected to return to the Academy on Monday, 2nd November, provided they are not displaying any COVID-19 related symptoms.

I am aware the news yesterday may have caused some concerns about the health and safety of your child but I wanted to reassure you that, as an Academy, we continue to take the health, safety and wellbeing of all of our pupils, staff and the wider school community extremely seriously and are closely reviewing our processes and procedures.

Additionally, our robust health and safety measures ensure the Academy continues to be as safe as possible 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. We are also continuing to work closely with the Department for Education and the Trust to ensure this risk continues to be minimised as much as possible and will remain in contact with our parents and carers to provide regular updates and information.

Changes to our local operating procedures – Use of face coverings

It is important that, as an Academy, we continue to do our utmost to reduce the further spread of COVID-19. It is for this reason that we have taken the decision that **face coverings will become mandatory in all communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, this includes lesson changeovers in particular**. If a pupil does not have a face covering, then one will be provided to them by the Academy, which they must wear in communal areas. **This change to our local operating procedure will take effect from Monday, 12th October and will be reviewed on a weekly basis.**



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Furthermore, from Monday (12th October) pupils will be supported to wear face coverings in lessons if they wish to do so. **Please ensure your child has an appropriate face covering and a plastic bag to keep their face covering in whilst it is not being worn, from Monday, 12th October.** If your child does not have a face covering, then a face mask will be provided for them which they will be expected to wear for all lesson changeovers and movement around the building where social distancing is more difficult to maintain.

There will be some staff and students who are medically exempt from wearing a face covering. If your child is one of these students, then please do get in contact with the Academy as soon as possible to discuss this.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the steps that we can all take to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. 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/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-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 unprecedented time. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Academy directly at adminr@thewellsacademy.org or by visiting <http://www.thewellsacademy.org>.

Thank you for your continued support at this very challenging time.



Mr Shepherd - Proud to be Principal of The Wells Academy

