

1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: COVID updates, including vaccinations

You may be aware that Staffordshire has seen a rise in cases of COVID, especially in school age children. This letter outlines the proportionate measures that we are taking in relation to our local context.

- **Students currently receive their lessons in year group class bubbles.** This allows us to track outbreaks easily and reduces interactions with other year groups. In addition, some double lessons restrict movement around the Academy.
- **Cleaning and ventilation routines in place.** The enhanced cleaning regimes continue as per last year.
- **Hand hygiene.** Hand sanitiser is available on entry to each lesson.
- **Interaction with parents where cases spike.** Where multiple cases are identified in a defined group, we will contact parents to advise. Parents may wish to access PCR tests at this point.
- **Support of the twice weekly lateral flow tests.** We advise parents to test their children twice a week and report the results both to the Academy and the NHS. Originally the guidance suggested this would cease in September, but this will now continue.
- **Work positively with parents.** We actively encourage parents to contact us to discuss individual cases. We will work proactively with you.

To highlight one significant change from Monday 4th October:

- **Masks in communal spaces.** Despite lesson time being in bubbles, there is cross year interaction at lesson change over and break/lunch. In response to rising cases, I am asking that all students and staff resume the wearing of facemasks when inside the building in corridors and communal spaces. Masks will not be needed to be worn in lessons. I would ask that the resumption of wearing face masks starts on **Monday 4th October.**

COVID vaccinations. Your child will be bringing home letters and consent forms early next week. COVID vaccinations are scheduled for Friday 8th October and available to children aged 12 and over on the date of vaccination. Nationally, all schools have been asked to facilitate the delivery of vaccinations as it does with all other childhood immunisations.

I fully appreciate that within our community differing opinions exist on such matters. We as a school are trying to provide the best possible educational experience whilst trying to navigate complex matters that the pandemic has raised. I ask that you respect all viewpoints and appreciate that we as a school are working within guidelines that can be beyond our control.

If you do have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Your sincerely



Mark Boughey
Principal