



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
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25th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid:

You can't fail to have seen in the media of late, the impact that the latest Covid variant is having, and I know from regular communications with other Headteachers in our area, that there has been a sharp rise in local cases among staff and young people in a large number of schools in Preston, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. At GCA we have only had one recent case resulting in a relatively small number of 'isolees'. I think by continuing to work together we can do our best to continue to keep our numbers down, thereby keeping everyone as safe as possible and making sure that we safeguard our children's education. Accordingly, please make sure that your children:

- wear their masks at school and public transport;
- continue to do their lateral flow tests twice a week;
- continue to socially distance as much as possible;
- stay off school if showing any of the classic symptoms, isolate with the rest of the family and have a PCR test etc;
- Stay off school and isolate if anyone in your family or support bubble shows any symptoms and/or has a positive lateral flow or PCR test. Any symptoms or a positive lateral flow test, should be followed with a PCR test;

Please report any positive results or classic symptoms to us immediately so that we can set our own processes such as Test & Trace in motion – we will only inform children that they have to isolate if there is a positive PCR result (or if the positive lateral flow is within the same family or support bubble) but we can prepare our contact lists in advance if we have prior warning.

Arrangements for September:

We fervently hope that we are returning to a close approximation of normal in September and therefore below are a few useful pieces of information/reminders reflecting our intentions:

- Thursday 2nd September will only be for the new Year 7 students and for Year 11, with everyone back to school on the 3rd.
- Forms and classes will no longer be taught in 'bubbles' or 'bubble rooms'.
- School site will continue to only be open to students from 8.15am, but registration in 'normal' registration groups/rooms will return to an 8.40am start – this means that students should be entering their form rooms at 8.40am, not just coming through the school gates at this time.



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- The school day will end at 3.05pm for everyone other than those staying for after-school activities.
- Split breaks and lunches will continue; students on a particular lunch will not be restricted to a particular canteen at lunchtime, but will have an outside zone which they will be expected to occupy for the rest of their break/lunch. Wet breaks/lunches will be in the canteen areas.
- Uniform will return to normal with no 'PE Uniform' day. Please make sure that you check the list on the website, but things we will be watching very closely for are coat colour (navy, black or dark blue), dark socks (ankle only for girls), proper shoes.

All of these are currently our hopes for September, but we are mindful that things are still very fluid and I will continue to communicate with you as and when anything changes.

Very best wishes, and stay safe,

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher