



6 November 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ RE COVID-19

Dear Parent/Carers

I am writing to update you with the actions that Wandle Valley Academy has and will be taking with regards to the ongoing issue of COVID -19 within the UK.

Firstly, I would like to reassure you that all of the action that we as a school continue to take has been on the advice of Public Health England, the NHS and the Government and that this action has been both considered and measured to ensure we do not overreact or be alarmist – school will essentially continue as normal.

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister that we are now going in to a second national lockdown, I wanted to update you as to what this means for Wandle Valley Academy. We will continue to use the original measures we have in place, such as taking temperatures on entry to the building, splitting break and lunchtimes, two-metre markings and continued sanitation of both hands and equipment throughout the day.

In addition to the above measures (as of the 5 November 2020), the latest guidance now states that all pupils in schools must wear a face mask in communal spaces, outside of classrooms – where social distancing cannot be maintained. The guidance does specify that **pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) may be exempt**, however medical evidence will need to be provided. Our expectation, is that this will be in place from **Monday 9 November 2020**.

Even though we are an Academy for pupils with SEN, we will be insisting that **pupils wear masks** as described above, which will be in **any indoor area, outside of the classroom** (masks will not need to be worn outside). This is due to our commitment to support everyone at the Academy to remain healthy and well during the pandemic.

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 in relation to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Yours sincerely

Miss L Harris
Headteacher