



Wellfield Academy

Executive Headteacher Mrs L Gwinnett
Head of School Mr J Lewis

Wednesday 22nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

COVID-19 Updates

Firstly, we would like to thank all students and parents for your support over the first four weeks of the academic year and, more specifically, since we began to implement further measures following a rise in COVID-19 cases within school last week.

Since returning to school in September, many of the previous health and safety measures were no longer advised and, in line with the government guidance, we adapted our risk assessment accordingly. For example, you will be aware that we undertook two LFD nasal tests within school, we continue to encourage good hygiene such as sanitising hands and our rooms are well ventilated, amongst other measures.

Despite these measures being put in place, we have seen an increase in positive cases which, in many ways, was anticipated as national restrictions have been lifted and students have returned to mixing within schools. Due to the small increases in potentially linked cases initially reported late last week, coupled with a high number of students who were absent from school for a variety of reasons, we felt it appropriate to advise all of Year 9 to undertake a PCR test as well as reminding the whole school of the importance of twice weekly LFD tests. Our staff also undertook PCR tests over the weekend to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Increased measures

At this stage, our immediate response appears to have helped to identify any positive cases and therefore limit the spread of the virus so far this week. However, as always, our highest priority is the health and safety of our staff, students and local community. Therefore, we have also responded in the following ways:

- Within vertical tutor groups, students should now be seated with others in their year group
- Increased track and trace of potential close contacts within school is taking place. Although there is no expectation for us to do this, we are working to identify students who have been in contact with a positive case and advising a PCR test along with daily testing
- Students without consent to test are expected to wear a mask in enclosed spaces (unless exempt)
- Continuing to encourage all students and staff to wear masks in enclosed spaces
- Carried out supervised LFD testing within school when we have identified that a student has not tested twice weekly

Testing Arrangements

Although the above measures will support us in playing a significant role in protecting our whole school community, regular testing remains the most important action. Please support us in ensuring your child tests twice weekly- every Sunday and Wednesday night.

We will continue with our regular text reminders for the home tests to be completed and please do not be offended if we do follow up with phone calls or text messages the following day.

If your son/daughter requires more test kits, these can be collected from the general office.



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Remote Learning

Whilst we hope your son/daughter will not require any period of self-isolation, we have ensured all students are prepared for remote learning should it be necessary. This has involved reminding students of ClassCharts log ins, email accounts, Google Classroom and how they can access support should it be required. Year 7 have also been educated on our expectations for remote learning.

In the event that your son/daughter is required to self-isolate but does not have a device of their own, we are more than happy to provide this to them, along with free school meals support where appropriate. Our duty of care remains whilst the isolation period is carried out so we will be in regular contact to ensure they are well supported.

Finally, please be mindful that, if there is a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases within school, we will be required to respond quickly to implement further measures. This may include requesting PCR tests, enhanced testing at home/in school and wearing of masks, for example, but please be reassured that we will communicate with you as soon as we possibly can.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly at enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org should you have any additional queries or concerns and, once again, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School