

22 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to advise you that Wakefield Local Authority has written to all schools and asked for renewed measures to be in place when we return after the half term holiday. The reason for this is the current high case rate in Wakefield which is badly affecting the education of young people.

We have agreed to increase the current safety measures in the Academy. This letter details those measures; our risk assessment will also be updated on the Academy website accordingly before we return on 1 November 2021. We know that you may find this concerning and we are continuing to monitor the situation. Please be reassured that for most people and especially for children and young people, Coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What will continue:

- Handwashing and hand sanitising around the site including on entry to classrooms and the restaurant (students are welcome to bring their own sanitiser).
- Classroom ventilation - windows and doors open wherever possible.
- Classroom seating plans will remain in place.
- We will continue with virtual assemblies and virtual parents evenings.
- Our one-way systems within the Academy will remain.

However, we now need to implement further measures to limit the spread of the virus. From Monday 1 November 2021, the following additional measures will be in place and we ask for your support in reinforcing these messages at home:

Masks We strongly advise staff and students to wear masks in classrooms and communal areas; this includes all corridors and when moving around the restaurant and on school/public transport.

If someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 (on LFD or PCR), we advise students to stay at home.

- If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away.
- If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms). If this test is negative, the student can return to school, but must stay at home and arrange another test if they go on to develop symptoms.

Some children are exempt from this advice:

- 12–16-year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago.
- Any child aged between 5 – 16 who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days.

Parents/carers who still want their child to continue to attend school have the right to do so. We do hope that most families will understand why they are being asked to do this and will feel able to keep their child at home for a short period, especially as at least one other household member will be at home self-isolating after testing positive.

- Reduce mixing between year groups and classes as much as possible to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Wherever possible, suspending whole-school or year group events.
- We ask that again parents and other visitors only attend the academy site when absolutely necessary and by appointment only.
- Educational trips and residential visits may not go ahead. We are reviewing on a trip by trip basis.
- Of course, we rely on parents/carers to reinforce these messages at home and thank you in advance for your continued support. The aim of these measures is to avoid a further increase in cases within the academy. We will continue to monitor the situation carefully, this will be reviewed at the end of November and we will take further action should it be necessary.

Please support your child to do a lateral flow test at least twice a week, and let us know at once if the test is positive. This is a really important way of picking up cases quickly and preventing spread, it is especially important that all staff and students test regularly.

Lateral flow tests are available to order online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or your child can collect a pack from SID, but this must be brought home.

It is understandable that this is a worrying time. It is important that students come to school focussed on learning and follow the key messages of being 'safe, respectful and responsible' at all times. Students have made an excellent start to the academic year and with these enhanced measures we will minimise any disruption to their education.

Attendance continues to be a high priority at Outwood Grange Academy and, following the advice in this letter, students should make every effort to be in school.

Yours faithfully



Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones

Principal