

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## COVID-19 Update

Dear parents

Happy New Year! I hope that this letter finds you well.

Following the recent change to government COVID-19 guidance for schools, this letter is to update you on our expectations when your child returns to school following the on-site COVID-19 testing taking place later this week.

### Face Coverings

From Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January face coverings are mandatory at all times indoors, including in classrooms. Pupils should bring a face covering to school and put these on when entering buildings. There will be a supply at reception if your child forgets to bring one with them.

Face coverings should be worn safely by doing the following:

- wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with the mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you have touched the part of the face covering in contact with the mouth and nose
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession to minimise potential contamination
- If single-use, dispose of it carefully in a waste bin and do not recycle
- If reusable, once removed, store in a plastic bag until there is an opportunity to wash them (wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric).

### Symptoms and Self-Isolation

If your child has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 they must not come to school. Symptoms include:

- a fever, particularly a high temperature (i.e. a temperature of 37.8 degrees or over); and/or
- a new continuous cough;
- a loss of, or change to, your normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia).

Please inform your child's academy if they test positive or have symptoms.

Details regarding self-isolation have recently been updated. For more information please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Marion Plant OBE FCGI

**Executive Principal:**  
Simon Lomax



George Eliot  
Academy



Hartshill  
Academy



Heath Lane  
Academy



Nuneaton  
Academy

If your child has been identified as a close contact of a positive case of COVID-19 they are strongly encouraged to test every day for 7 days and continue to attend school unless they test positive.

If your child has not yet had their COVID-19 vaccination, we would encourage them to have this.

### **Additional Protective Measures**

Our protective measures that have been in place throughout the pandemic remain in place and we ask that you and your child continue to adhere to these:

- Pupils should complete a lateral flow test twice weekly. Pupils can collect test kits from school. Results should be reported to us using the online form available on the individual academies websites and to the NHS.
- Parents should only visit our Academies with a pre-booked appointment.
- In addition, we will keep classrooms and indoor spaces well ventilated and maintain touch point cleaning. We ask that pupils regularly wash their hands and use hand sanitiser points around the Academy.

### **Uniform**

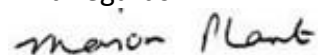
Our normal uniform requirements are to be maintained, and we ask that your child comes correctly dressed and equipped to school. We do however encourage your child to bring a plain black jumper, academy jumper or coat with them as classroom windows need to be kept open to enable good ventilation and the winter temperatures may mean at times it is cold.

Further details, including timings for the staggered return to school over the next week, and testing can be found on our academy websites. If you have any queries, please do get in touch with your child's Academy.

Finally, as you will appreciate it may continue to be the case that we need to move pupils to remote learning in the event of high levels of staff absence caused by COVID-19. This decision is not taken lightly, and we will do all we can to keep pupils in lessons on site. Please keep up to date with communications from us using the normal systems (website, text messages and parent app), we may need to make the decision to move pupils to remote learning at short notice and we are grateful for your support with this. Details of how to access remote learning have been shared by our Academies and can also be accessed on the individual academy websites.

As we continue to navigate the pandemic and respond to local and national guidance, we will keep you informed of any changes to our measures as soon as possible.

Kind regards



Marion Plant OBE  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Midland Academies Trust