



Mr G Panayiotou – Executive Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

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Our Ref: GP/NF

14th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope this letter find you and your family well.

We have recently received updated operational guidance from the Department for Education regarding the way in which schools should respond to coronavirus from Monday 19th July 2021.

The hierarchy of controls will remain largely the same for the rest of this academic year, with some changes for September 2021. We have set out below the systems of control that we will continue to follow along with any significant changes.

Identifying close contacts

From **Monday 19th July, the academy is no longer required to identify pupils who have been a close contact of somebody who has tested positive for Covid-19.** From Monday, close contacts will be identified via the NHS Test and Trace system. In the event of a pupil testing positive, they will identify close contacts directly with the NHS Test and Trace team who will contact close contacts directly.

Please continue to use the normal attendance procedures to inform the academy if your child tests positive for Covid-19 or is identified as a close contact and is required to isolate. In line with public health guidance, the academy will no longer send letters to inform parents if a child in school tests positive.

Ensure good hygiene for everyone

The academy will continue to ask all pupils to clean their hands regularly with either hand sanitisers or soap and water. This means that pupils will still be required to sanitise on entry to the academy building and between lesson/social times. We will continue to promote respiratory hygiene e.g. 'catch it, kill it, bin it'.

Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes

The academy will continue to operate a cleaning regime in line with the guidance, including regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Teaching and social spaces will continue to be well ventilated by either fresh air or mechanical ventilation.

Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Pupils and staff must continue to follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19.

Asymptomatic Testing (Lateral Flow Tests)

Over the summer, staff and secondary pupils should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings. **Schools will only have the option to provide tests for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for pupils and staff over the summer period if they are attending school settings.** Testing will still be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online.

September 2021

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, when pupils return to school in September, the DfE have asked schools to offer pupils the opportunity to take two on-site lateral flow tests. The DfE have suggested that pupils receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. In order for this to take place, the DfE have allowed schools to implement a staggered start to the term.

On-site tests will be offered at the following times:

	Test	Return to school
Thursday 2 nd September	Year 7, 10, 12, 13	
Friday 3 rd September	Year 8, 9, 11	
Monday 6 th September (PM)	Year 7, 12, 13	
Tuesday 7 th September	Year 10, 11	Year 7
Wednesday 8 th September	Year 8, 9	Year 7, 12, 13
Thursday 9 th September		All Years
Friday 10 th September		All Years

As always, no tests will be conducted without parental permission. **More details regarding the testing process will be e-mailed to parents next week.**

Face coverings

From Monday 19th July 2021, face coverings will no longer be advised in educational settings and will not be a legal requirement on public transport. Pupils will have the option to wear a face covering in lessons and on corridors if this is something that parents/carers would prefer.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. The resilience shown by pupils and parents over this unprecedented time has been truly impressive. We are very excited about the return to normality for the next academic year.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Panayiotou
Executive Headteacher

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Cook
Associate Headteacher

