

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to you again following my recent communication re COVID. As an Academy we have continued to experience an increase in both members of staff and students testing positive for COVID-19 (using PCR tests). I want to reassure you that I have continued to be in regular contact with Public health England (PHE) and the Local Authority (LA)

I discussed a range of precautions that as an Academy we could put in place and PHE/LA have agreed that from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October** I shall be re-introducing additional precautionary measures which will be in place until 22<sup>nd</sup> October:

- Face masks are to be worn by **all staff and students** in communal areas of the Academy and in corridors during lesson changeovers. It is not recommended to wear face masks in the classroom.
- All visitors to the Academy must wear face masks.
- Parents evening will become virtual, this will affect the Year 11,12 and 13 subject evenings on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> October respectively.

We have been constantly reassured that we have the appropriate precautions in place such as:

- High ventilation;
- Good hygiene routines;
- Twice weekly testing using LFT devices, for students and staff with these being logged on both the Academy's 'TestRegister' system and with the NHS. **It is vital that this happens as the LFD test are identifying asymptomatic cases.**

The majority of our students wore face masks last year and are aware of the routines needed for this. I feel it is important to share the guidance again for your child when wearing their face covering around the Academy. It is very important that your child knows the correct way to wear and handle face coverings, as if they are handled incorrectly it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. We would ask that face coverings are ideally reusable (can be washed), are non-branded and are as plain as possible.

For information on wearing, handling and washing reusable face coverings please click on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Some staff and students may be exempt from wearing a face covering. **If your child is exempt and you have not already informed the Academy, please do contact us as soon as you can via [firstaid@bushfield.co.uk](mailto:firstaid@bushfield.co.uk).** In light of those who are exempt, we also want to stress the importance of students being sensitive to individual circumstances when a peer or staff member may not be wearing a face covering.

I thank you in advance for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation as we continue to navigate and adjust to the present circumstances.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you of the COVID-19 protocol. If your child is displaying any of the following symptoms of COVID-19, then they should not attend the Academy and a PCR test should be sought as soon as possible:

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

In the meantime, can I thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Kirwan  
Principal