

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Acting Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby

6th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we near the end of another week I provide an update regarding our current position.

We have had one case of coronavirus reported to us today in Year 11. The pupil has been isolating at home. A small number of pupils that have been in close contact with this individual have been sent home to self-isolate and parents have been informed. We have had one member of our secondary staff test positive at the beginning of the week and they are also completing a period of isolation. Several other staff who were tested as a precaution, have returned to the Academy as their tests were negative. The second national lockdown is directly related to the increased numbers of cases being reported nationally and, disappointing as it is to have cases within ARA, we are still well below national figures and those of other local schools. Further information and national guidance is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person> and details related to booking a test can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

Last month I wrote to you regarding our expectations that pupils and staff aged 11 and above should wear masks when they are in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot be easily be maintained. On Wednesday of this week the government announced that this is now mandatory for all secondary schools. The vast majority of our pupils are already conforming with these expectations but there are a small minority that need constant reminding and, as with any uniform issue, we will use sanctions and punishments to ensure they comply. It is important that we work together to make sure our children are taking all the appropriate precautions such as washing **hands**, covering their **face** and leaving **space**, not only in the academy but also when traveling to and from school.

Some of you will have heightened concerns, especially if a member of your family is in the extremely clinically vulnerable group, but the government has highlighted how important it is for the well-being and education of our children that schools remain open. I have been impressed with the resilience of the pupils and how well they have coped with the changes in our daily routines for example the building is colder than normal as we are keeping windows and doors open to maintain good air circulation. To support this we will make a **temporary change** to our school rules and allow outdoor coats to be worn in class and around the building. These must be plain, outdoor coats **not** sweatshirts or hoodies. I remind you that we also have a school jumper that can be purchased from the uniform shop if further layers are required. We will revisit this rule change at February half-term.

I am confident that my staff will continue to do everything we can to keep your child safe and provide a high quality education throughout the next month but as highlighted at the beginning of the year there may be days when we have to send home, groups of secondary age pupils, either to self-isolate or because of staff shortages. We will of course do our best to avoid this approach and I remind you to email enquiries@alecreedacademy.co.uk should you prefer that we keep your child

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in the academy until we have spoken to you personally. Taking this approach may be a key measure in keeping cases low and reducing any potential spread of the virus.

Over recent weeks we have significantly improved our home learning provision and all pupils have been provided with their own Microsoft Office 365 account that will enable them to access more resources and work should they be required to self-isolate. To facilitate this it is important that they remember their username and password and that they have access at home to a computer or, where that isn't possible, a tablet or phone. More information regarding this blended learning approach will be distributed by the academy should it be required.

As always I hope you remain safe and well and encourage you to access our website and social media for further updates.

Kind regards,

Phil Cosby
Acting Principal & CEO