

10th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19 at WMG Academy

You may be aware that earlier today we made the difficult decision to ask some students in Years 11 and 12 to self-isolate as part of our response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the Academy community. We are writing now to clarify the situation for all year groups and advise on the arrangements for the continuation of learning, albeit from home, for those students who have been asked to self-isolate.

A decision to ask any number of students to leave the Academy and to work from home is a decision that we never take lightly. As always, we are grateful to parents for your support today and ask for your continued patience and understanding as we move forward. The national picture surrounding COVID-19 is very volatile and rapidly evolving and we find ourselves having to make decisions very quickly.

It is also important to clarify that the cases affecting Year 11 and Year 12 are individual and unrelated. We have taken advice from Solihull MBC's public health team, and this advice has directly informed all of the decisions that we have made.

Year 10

No students in Year 10 have been asked to self-isolate and they should continue to attend lessons onsite as usual.

Year 11

All students from Year 11 have been asked to self-isolate and work from home. These students have been briefed by staff in the Academy before they left today and a letter has been sent home. Online learning will take place from Period 1 on Wednesday 11th November 2020 via Google Classroom. For access to these sessions, students should directly contact their subject teachers.

Year 12

A group of approximately 40 students from Year 12 have been asked to self-isolate and work from home. These students have been briefed by staff in the Academy before they left today and a letter has been sent home. Online learning will take place from Period 1 on Wednesday 11th November 2020 via Google Classroom. For access to these sessions, students should directly contact their subject teachers.

Year 13

No students in Year 13 have been asked to self-isolate and they should continue to attend lessons onsite as usual.

WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood, B37 5FD

Advice on Self-Isolating and the Return to Onsite Working

Students who have been told to self-isolate will be able to return to the Academy as detailed below. **Please note that these dates may differ to those set out in our earlier letter following updated guidance this afternoon.**

- Year 11 – Monday 23rd November (isolation ends on Friday 20th November);
- Year 12 – Thursday 19th November (isolation ends on Wednesday 18th November);

In the meantime, they should remain at home. Other members of their household, including siblings who attend the Academy's sixth form, are able to continue as normal.

At this point in time you do not need to be unduly concerned, however should your son or daughter exhibit any of the following symptoms please book a coronavirus test and keep them and any other members of their household at home until you receive the result:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child does show symptoms, we would ask that you keep the Academy informed, including the result of any COVID-19 tests, even if they are negative. It is imperative that the Academy is aware of any suspected or confirmed cases so we can limit the spread as necessary and identify anybody else who should self-isolate as a precaution.

Next Steps

We understand that the need to partially close the Academy at such short notice may cause some concern and inconvenience, but please be assured that we are doing all we can in line with the guidance we have received to safeguard the wellbeing of staff and students. This is always our priority and we appreciate your understanding, support and cooperation at this time.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's main Reception on 0121 289 3556 or via email to solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr S Tait
Associate Principal

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