Whitley Academy

Principal: Mrs Kathryn Wright

Acting Principal: Miss S. Bloom

SBL/SBA

20th November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

You may be aware that we have had some staff and students test positive for Covid-19 this week. I want to assure you that all appropriate measures have been put in place, and inform you that *not* all staff and students who are currently absent are positive cases of Covid. Some are absent as they have been identified as close contacts or they have been contacted by the track & trace app and are therefore not on site and are self-isolating.

Where students are working from home we are continuing to set work through MS Teams. We are also delivering live or pre-recorded lessons to students at home and in school if their teacher is absent, where feasible.

The situation is reviewed daily by myself, Mr Green, Mr Bailie, the Local Authority and Public Health England.

At the present time, the plans for next week are:

Year 7	Attend school as normal
Year 8	Attend school as normal
Year 9	Attend school as normal unless self-isolating due to being in close contact with a positive case
Year 10	Attend school as normal
Year 11	Continue to isolate due to cases of COVID-19
Post 16	Continue to work from home due to staffing capacity

I understand this is not an ideal situation, and I will be in touch again next week regarding the situation for Year 11 and Post, following advice from Public Health England.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19
For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of a:
- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home, and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: nhs.uk/coronavirus.   When the result of the child's test is known further advice will be available.

If your child develops symptoms or receives a positive test for COVID-19 please ensure you inform the school.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading
There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Further information is available at nhs.uk/coronavirus.

Thank you for your support in this matter during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Miss S. Bloom
Acting Principal