

14 May 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **COVID-19 Update – Face Coverings**

The DfE have updated the guidance to schools following the announcement from the Prime Minister earlier in the week. As part of the government's move to Step 3 of the roadmap out of restrictions, from **Monday 17 May**, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff and students in schools and further education in England. Their guidance on face coverings has been updated to reflect these changes.

Face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools, it is **recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and invited visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible** (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils or staff, in classrooms, may be advised for a temporary period in response to localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission.

All other systems of control will remain in place and will be reviewed following the next announcements from the government. We have updated our risk assessment to reflect these changes, and all other measures remain in place.

Unfortunately, we received a suspected positive case following a lateral flow test this week from one of our students. Whilst we await confirmation of the case via a PCR test, we have identified the close contacts and the small number affected are now self isolating.

### **Great Minds Tour Bus**

On Friday 7 May we had the Staffordshire University Great Minds Tour Bus visit the Academy. Year 10 students were taken onto the Bus where they were given a virtual tour of the Campus, took part in a quiz (with a prize for the winner), learned about the application process for Staffordshire University and student life and also, as Staffordshire University was the first one to run a Games Design degree course, had the opportunity to play computer games.

### **Weekly Questionnaire**

Each week we are conducting a short survey so that we can better support your needs. This week the focus is on Teaching & Learning. Please use this link to submit your responses and thank you in advance for taking the time. <https://bit.ly/3bnb8Cz>

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email on [info@bircheshead.org.uk](mailto:info@bircheshead.org.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Ms K Dixon  
Principal