



CAISTOR YARBOROUGH ACADEMY

Our Ref: MMid/KWoo

11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the start of a new school year. As schools re-open to all students, we have enjoyed welcoming everyone back full time into the Academy. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents/carers for your continued support during these unprecedented times, to update you with some new information and also to reinforce guidance that we have already previously communicated.

Except in areas with local lockdown restrictions, shielding advice was paused on 1st August 2020. This means that even the small number of students who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who were shielding.

It is vital that children return to school; for their educational progress, for their wellbeing and for their wider development. School attendance is mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. This means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child/ren to school regularly (if they are of compulsory school age). If you have concerns about your child/ren returning to school because you consider they may have other risk factors, please contact the Academy to discuss this further.

Illness

I ask that you are more cautious about allowing your child/ren to attend the Academy if they are ill. Do not send your child/ren to school if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or if someone in your household is showing symptoms. The most important COVID-19 symptoms are:

- a new continuous cough;
- a high temperature; and
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If you are unsure whether to send your child to the Academy, we advise you to call 111 to obtain appropriate advice from medically trained personnel.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, they should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started. You should arrange for them to have a test to see if they have COVID-19. I have been asked to remind you that you should only seek a COVID-19 test if you are displaying symptoms. Booking a test for a cold or headache will put pressure on the system. There is no need for others in the same household to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

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EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

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However, if you live with others then all other household members need to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day that their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts to display symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms first appeared, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period. Below is the current advice from Public Health England about what actions should be taken when you or a member of your household receives a COVID-19 test result:

- If someone receives a negative test result, they feel well and no longer have symptoms, then they can stop self-isolating. Other members of the household can also stop self-isolating. The self-isolation periods are measured from the first day that the first person started displaying symptoms.
- If someone receives a negative test result but they are still displaying symptoms, then they must continue to isolate for 10 days and other members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days.
- If someone receives a positive test result, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. If they are not experiencing any symptoms but have tested positive, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days starting from the day the test was taken. Students to whom this applies may return to the Academy only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature then they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms then they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period, and arrange to have a test.

Day to Day Systems

- A polite reminder that students should not be arriving on site before 8.30am in the morning as the site is not staffed before this time. Parents should also not be arriving to collect students from the Academy before 3pm as the driveway and road into the site cannot accommodate the high amount of stationary traffic.
- We have been asked by Lincolnshire County Council and the bus companies to remind students that they must wear face coverings on the buses. It is essential that pupils follow the recommendation to wear a face covering, wherever they are able to do so, for the duration of their trip on school transport vehicles. Our colleagues in Public Health have indicated that wearing a face covering, along with other preventative measures in place, will noticeably reduce a student's need to self-isolate if they are travelling on a school transport vehicle where a peer subsequently tests positive for Covid-19. Students will be sanctioned whose behaviour on the buses makes other students feel unsafe because they will not follow the rules about face masks.
- As previously communicated, measures have been put in place to allow students to work in bubbles. Each bubble has been allocated a different area of the Academy for lessons and free-time. Following Government guidance, students are not required to socially distance within their bubbles. This information has been communicated to all students and it is vital that they adhere to this. At certain times of the day, as students move around the site, it is also important that they remember to socially distance themselves from students in other bubbles.

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- Staff are working hard to give feedback to students. However, as a result of current guidelines this will be done mainly through verbal feedback. Students will be required to write this feedback down and respond to it.
- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of/change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home, told to self-isolate for 10 days and advised to arrange a test to see if they have COVID-19. Anybody needing a COVID-19 test will be requested by the school to provide a copy of the results.
- Any positive cases in the Academy will be reported to Public Health England. If there are 2 confirmed COVID-19 cases in a bubble, Public Health England will advise the Academy about what action needs to be taken. This may include sending a 'bubble' home to self-isolate for 14 days. We have systems in place to enable home learning to take place, following the current timetable. A whole school closure would be a last resort.
- From Monday 14th September pupils will be required to attend the Academy in their PE kit on days where they are timetabled to have PE so that more active PE lessons can resume. We would therefore ask that students wear their PE shorts, PE top, trainers and, if necessary, dark (preferably black) jogging bottoms or leggings; in addition to a dark (preferably black) hoodie, jumper or jacket. We will keep you updated as the guidance changes and we hope that in the next few weeks we will be able to allow students to change into/out of their PE kit before/after PE lessons as normal.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the students for their commendable behaviour and resilience in following all of the new procedures in the Academy to ensure such a smooth transition back after the summer holidays.

We look forward to a productive and positive year in the Academy.

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully



Mr M J Midgley
Headteacher