

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS25th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for taking the time to read this week's update:

LFD Serial Testing – after several media stories reporting on accuracy and regulation, Public Health England and the DfE have clarified that the use of LFDs (rapid corona virus test kits) **are** reliable and licenced for use in schools (and other testing facilities). From today a positive result on an LFD in an accredited test site (of which we are one) will have the same legal standing as a test taken at a standard PCR site. We will continue the use of LFD testing on site for staff and students who are currently attending site. The DfE and PHE have asked that this become twice weekly to further strengthen the approach to breaking chains of transmission and reducing the demand on the NHS from case numbers. If your child is currently attending site and we do not have consent (or firm rejection of consent) for LFD testing on site we will contact you to ask for consent or rejection. Thank you for your continued support and to the students for their engagement in this. The only aspect that was confirmed as not currently accredited was the intention to use LFDs to prevent close contacts from having to undertake 10 days of isolation once they had been identified as a close contact. PHE have stated they need more time to analyse a pilot study before taking this approach and therefore the launch of this has been suspended. That means that if a student or staff member is identified as a close contact to someone who tests positive for corona virus they must revert to undertaking a 10 day isolation period. If this situation arises we will of course communicate clearly and separately to anyone affected.

LFD Testing Consent - Whilst we are talking about testing, thank you to those families that have previously completed the consent for to either give or reject consent. If you have not yet completed it one way or the other, or are unsure if you have, then we would appreciate you [completing the consent form available here](#).

The privacy notice referenced in the consent form can be read [here](#) and the GDPR notice [here](#) for those who wish.

Reopening – Again, we appreciate there is constant media coverage and speculation on when schools will reopen with some talking about May at the earliest. We know that the constant speculation is not likely to be helpful and is likely to cause anxiety in both directions. I just want to assure families that as soon as there is any confirmed information about reopening we will of course communicate it. At the minute all of the coverage is purely speculative. Currently, schools are still reopening on Monday 22nd February for the start of Term 4. However, it is fair to say that with the case and hospitalisation rates as they are this seems less likely than I would like. Gavin Williamson MP (Secretary of State for Education) did pledge last week to give school leaders and families 2 weeks notice of reopening (reversing the trend for last minute announcements) so we are expecting concrete information later this week or early next week about the start of Term 4. I sincerely hope that the lockdown coupled with the vaccine rollout has a dramatic positive effect on cases in the imminent future and we can look to reopen schools as a matter of urgency. I know that almost all staff and students would rather be back in the physical Academy as soon as we are able to.

Screen Time – we know from various conversations that some students are thriving with their remote learning setup and expectations. We know that others are struggling with the amount of screen time and lack of physical contact with staff (and peers). I wish there was a simple solution and really do feel for our young people and the families at home who are supporting their learning currently. Until we can reopen to all students I just wanted to reiterate that all we expect from our students in the current circumstances is for them to try their absolute best and to engage as much as they can with their teachers and



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learning activities. If students have any concerns their first port of call should be their subject teacher and/or tutor. For families please reach out to tutors and house teams. Thank you again for the continued support. We will shortly be sending around a link to a simple survey for students and families to provide some basic feedback on what else we can do as an Academy to support learning to the best of all our abilities in the current operating environment.

Lockdown Newsletter – during this closure period we have re-launched the BMA Lockdown Newsletter. Issue #1 can be found on this link <https://sway.office.com/k4ngumSt64RAAtU7N?ref=Link>

As always, thank you for the continued support and understanding that you are showing to us at this time. All of the positive cards, feedback and messages are really appreciated and really do mean a lot to the staff during this time. We know it is far from perfect but the support as we navigate this landscape makes all the difference.

Best wishes,

Mr C Shaw
Principal



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Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Office 365

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot (less than £10 from Amazon)
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails

