

26th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well and have found some way to enjoy a relaxing and peaceful half-term break. I am very pleased that after our careful staggered start to the year we have been able to keep the academy open for the full half term with minimal disruption to student learning. Despite the global pandemic our students and staff have continued to engage in many positive activities and events, and I know our students will have benefitted greatly from the return to full-time education in September.

Please take a moment to visit our Twitter account or Facebook page to see the wide range of activities that have been taking place in the first half of this Autumn term. We very much look forward to your child returning to the academy on **Monday 2nd November**.

New government arrangements require the use of face coverings.

During this half-term break the government announced its new local lockdown system. The rolling out of a new triple tier system across England means regions will impose different rules depending on whether they are deemed to have a “medium”, “high” or “very high risk”.

The local COVID alert level for Arnold Hill Academy is currently ‘*high*’, although it is widely anticipated it will rise to Tier 3, ‘*very high*’ in the coming days. Whether we are ‘*high*’ or ‘*very high*’ **face coverings should now be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.** The government still advises that it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.

Please can you take time to speak with your child before they return after the break, and ensure they know that the wearing of an appropriate, plain face covering is now an expectation for all students, every day, when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas. Students must come to the academy each day with an appropriate face covering as well as a suitable, waterproof outdoor coat to protect them when outside. Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. For example, people who cannot put on, wear, or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, disability, or SEN. If your child has an identified reason for exemption, then please ensure you communicate this to your child’s Head of Year as we will need to be clear on these reasons.

Prevalence of Coronavirus in Gedling, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City.

On 24th October, Government data showed there had been a further 727 positive coronavirus tests across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire during the previous 24 hours.

Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Spencer Academies Trust

Registered office: Arthur Mee Road, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 7EW

The company’s registered number is 7353824

On 24th October, in Nottingham city, a total of 10,026 cases had been recorded since the start of the pandemic, up by 239 cases over the previous 24 hours. In Nottinghamshire, on the same date, the figure stood at 11,329, an increase of 488 cases over the previous 24 hours. In Gedling, a total of 1,819 cases was recorded, an increase of 74 over the previous 24 hours.

At Arnold Hill Academy I'm pleased to say the number of recorded cases has been relatively low and the disruption to learning has been minimised. In the first half-term of this academic year we have seen just 5 students with positive tests; single cases in Years 7, 10 and 13 and just 2 cases in Year 9. With each of these cases we have ensured the Dept. for Education, Local Authority and Public Health England have been notified and have followed advice to ensure any '*close contacts*' are quickly identified and begin to self-isolate.

If any members of your household are awaiting the result of a test for COVID-19

If any members of your household are awaiting the result of a test for COVID-19 then please ensure everyone in your household remains at home and does not leave the house for 14 days.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

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

Do

- 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

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I very much look forward to your child returning to the academy on **Monday 2nd November**.

Kind regards

Matt Robertson
Principal