

Dear Parents and Students

#### **GWA Update 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Welcome to this week's Friday update. I do hope it is helpful to keep you as informed as possible during this ever-changing time ... we're going to begin this week with some 'GWA as normal' news about wider opportunities, and there's an important attachment to this mail too.

#### ***Opportunities beyond lessons***

I am pleased to say that now we are more settled into our new routines we can begin to reintroduce some of the extra activities which help define what makes GWA special:

- Enrichment will re-start from 5<sup>th</sup> October, though we are still considering final details around this and a detailed mail will follow next week.
- We have two competitions on the go for all students at the moment – an Art and Design logo competition, and a science writing competition. Students have had details of these in school and we've already had some excellent entries.
- Year 9 parents will shortly receive details of a (Covid-safe) visit to school by a theatre production
- School Parliament will soon be up and running with Members of Parliament from each House in each year group
- This week our assemblies have celebrated the school's Green Flag Eco-School status, gained just as lockdown began, with students challenged to continue to school's good work in all things ecological

#### ***New emails for absence***

In order to try to streamline our absence procedures (now that we have more students on roll) we have set up three new email addresses that we'd ask you to use from now on to report an absence or alert us to a future absence. Please choose the correct one for your House:

[aderin@gwacademy.co.uk](mailto:aderin@gwacademy.co.uk)

[peake@gwacademy.co.uk](mailto:peake@gwacademy.co.uk)

[sharman@gwacademy.co.uk](mailto:sharman@gwacademy.co.uk)

Whilst this system beds in we will obviously still accept calls, but we'd like to move to email-only reporting if possible. If you need a call back please just say so in your mail.

#### ***Covid update***

Rather than make this a very long mail, I've attached a document summarising our latest actions. It includes outline details of what would happen if the school community (staff or student) were to receive details of a positive test, which I'd encourage you to be aware of. In particular I'd draw your attention to the fact that students need to be able to access Microsoft Teams at home. This can be done on any internet-enabled device, and is necessary for homework tasks as well

as continuing learning in the case of any need for self-isolation. If you've not already done so please could you ensure that you have access at home, and if you don't then contact us for advice.

On a Teams-related note please accept my apologies that our parental update of homework tasks is still not up and running. This is the final piece in the jigsaw of our IT upgrade over the summer, and I'm assured by our IT team that we should have things ready for you very soon.

#### ***Consultation***

Occasionally we are legally required to consult regarding a school policy. All schools have had to review their Relationships and Sex Education policy due to new guidance that is now in place. Our new policy is available on our consultations page here: <https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/school-information/policies/consultation>

#### ***Aiming high ...***

Finally this week I'd like to highlight the excellent work being done by Year 13 students and their tutors and teachers in preparing for applications to universities and other post-18 opportunities. We have several students applying for prestigious courses, including courses at Oxford and Cambridge and applications to study medicine. We continue to support everyone to have high aspirations and to go on and meet those, and we're delighted our first year 13 cohort is setting such a positive tone with this.

I hope you all have a very good weekend.

Graham Davis  
Principal

## COVID-19 - Information Update for Parents 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

We have been working hard at GWA to ensure that we have taken every precaution to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. The pupils have adjusted well to the new routines that we have put in place. However, we are aware of the ongoing media attention that is being given to the rise in positive Covid-19 cases and there have also been reported incidents in schools in the surrounding area, although none in Swindon at the time of writing.

I'm sure you may have questions about the policies and procedures that are in place in school in the event of a positive case. We hope this document will go some way to answering those questions.

### Current guidance and actions

As previously circulated to you in our risk assessment documentation we have a number of measures in place to reduce the risk of the virus spreading in our school community. These include:

- A constant focus on hand sanitisation, and a new 'no contact' rule between students
- We are operating a system of 'Year Group Bubbles'
  - Each year group has a separate entrance to school and staircase for moving between floors
  - Each year group has the majority of lessons in a dedicated corridor/wing of the school. The only exceptions being practical subjects that require specialist spaces
  - There are staggered lunches, with only one year group using the canteen at a time
  - Outdoor space allocated to each year group for break/lunch
- Regular cleaning of surfaces, door handles, bannisters etc throughout the day
- Classrooms set out in line with Government guidance

The school has guidance on what to do in the event of a confirmed case in school, and in such event, we will receive support from Public Health England/Wiltshire to ensure that the necessary actions are taken.

There is some clear guidance for parents at the end of this document, which we hope will assist you in knowing what measures you need to take at home if a the pupil, or a member of your household, is showing any Covid-19 symptoms. It is essential that if any member of your household is showing symptoms that the correct precautions are followed and a test is taken. This allows us to continue to protect the whole school community from the risk of infection.

We have tried to anticipate some of the questions that you may have below as a series of 'What happens if...?' answers.

***To help ensure that your child is prepared for any situations described below, please check that they have access to Microsoft Teams at home from an internet enabled device. This could be a laptop/PC, tablet or smartphone. The Teams App is available to download from all the major app-stores. Please let school know if you have any issues accessing the required software or hardware.***

### What happens if...

- **My child has symptoms**

If your child is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19 they need to stay off school and get a test. The school can help direct you towards how to do this if required. The student needs to remain

off school for 10 days, or until they receive confirmation of a negative test. All other members of the household also need to remain in isolation for 14 days.

- **Someone in household has symptoms**

All members of the household need to isolate for 14 days. As above, the family member who is displaying symptoms needs to get a test. Other family members do not need a test unless they are displaying symptoms.

- **One of my child's friends/close contacts has symptoms**

Your child does not need to take any action. The child/friend who was displaying symptoms needs to follow the guidance described above.

- **There is a confirmed case in a student at the school**

The most likely result of this is that the year group bubble will need to isolate for 14 days. Any staff members who have been in close contact with the confirmed case will also need to isolate for 14 days. The school will contact all parents of the affected year group and issue guidance on the steps that need to be taken. It is possible that students would need to be sent home at very short notice; we would always notify you first and would keep students isolated from each other in school until we know you are aware they are coming home. Please see the information below on how we will continue to deliver teaching and learning if this happens. It is unlikely that other year groups will need to isolate, only the year group of the confirmed case.

- **There is a confirmed case in a member of staff at the school**

In this situation the school would engage with Track and Trace. The member of staff would clearly be isolating, but so would close contacts, including any made in school – other staff, or students. It is for this reason that we make every effort in school for staff to distance from each other, and to only be close to students for very short periods. However, it is fair to say that in a worst case scenario, if several staff had to self-isolate, then a decision may need to be made that we cannot safely teach all students in school, and one or more year groups may need to work from home.

## **How will teaching and learning operate in the event that year groups need to isolate?**

In the event that a year group needs to isolate, the delivery of their lessons will switch to Microsoft Teams. Lessons will follow the normal school six lesson day. Each class at GWA has its own Teams Page set up and pupils are 'members' of these teams. This year we have already been using Teams to set homework for all year groups. Teams can also be used to deliver live video lessons and to share resources, as well as setting homework, quizzes and assignments. Self-isolating teachers may in many cases be able to provide live lessons, and where not they will set work through Teams.

School will endeavour to maintain lines of communication with the pupils through Teams and e-mail and also by phone where we feel necessary.

## **Further information and advice**

Please see some helpful advice and information on the following pages.

# COVID-19 information

## A quick guide for parents/carers



Please follow the advice in this guide. Only contact the school if your child is having a test and to let us know the result. Your school will not be able to advise beyond the information given here. **Please remember to only get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.**

### YOU SHOULD BOOK A TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

**a high temperature.**

**or**

**a new continuous cough.**

**or**

**a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.**



This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.



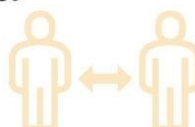



If your child DOES NOT have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they or members of your household do not need to self-isolate.

**Your child can attend school if fit to do so.**

What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
<b>My child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to school</li> <li>Book a test for your child</li> <li>Whole household to self-isolate</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	<b>If test is negative and child is well enough, symptom free for 48 hours and not advised to self-isolate by test and trace service.</b>
<b>My child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to school</li> <li>Child to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> <li>Whole household to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) -even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<b>When child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours</b>  They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.

**#WiltshireTogether**



What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
<b>Somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to school</li> <li>Household member with symptoms to book a test</li> <li>Whole household to self-isolate while waiting for test result</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	<b>When household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms and if child has not been advised to self isolate by test and trace services</b>
<b>Somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to school</li> <li>Whole household to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	<b>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</b>
<b>NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact'</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to school</li> <li>Child to self-isolate for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> <li>Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are also a 'close contact'</li> </ul>	<b>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</b>
<b>Your child has been in contact with someone who has been identified as a 'close contact'</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend school as normal</li> <li>If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities</li> </ul>	<b>Attend school as normal</b>
<b>We / my child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate.</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to school</li> <li>Whole household to self-isolate for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> </ul> <b>Travel reminders:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</li> <li>Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</li> <li>Provide information to school as per attendance policy</li> </ul>	<b>When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</b>
<b>We have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to school.</li> <li>Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team</li> <li>Child to shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	<b>When school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</b>