

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The academy is once again facing a significant increase in the number of positive Covid cases amongst students and staff. As a result, regrettably we are not able to provide the full range of face to face education that we expect. As such, please note the following:

- The Academy will be **closed to students in years 8 and 10** from Wednesday 24th of November to Tuesday 30th November.
- The Academy will be open as normal to students in year 7, 9 and 11.

I want to assure all parents and carers that I have not taken this decision lightly and I would like to apologise for the short notice. As always, I have kept the interests of our students at the very heart of this process.

All lessons will take place using Teams and a full user guide is also attached to the email. We are very aware that some families will not have access to IT equipment at home and as such if any student in year 8 or 10 requires a laptop and has home internet, please email the Academy on sw-devicerequest@smithswood.fmat.co.uk with your request. We will then contact you when your laptop is ready for collection from the Academy. Please note the laptop is a DfE built laptop with access to educational functions only.

For further information, please visit the remote learning section of our website by clicking on this link: [Blended and Remote Learning – Smith's Wood Academy \(smithswood.co.uk\)](https://www.smithswood.co.uk)

If a student requires a TEAMS password reset please email us at sw-studentremotesupport@smithswood.fmat.co.uk.

If any student in years 8 or 10 is entitled to a Free School Meal and you wish us to provide a meal, please email us at lunches@smithswood.fmat.co.uk and we will be in touch.

If you are considered to be a critical worker of a child in year 8 or 10 and you wish your son / daughter to attend the Academy, please email us at office@smithswood.fmat.co.uk and we will contact you with further details. In-line with DfE guidance we will be contacting any student who is 'Looked After', has an EHCP or who we consider to be vulnerable over the next 2 working days.

If you are worried about the well being of your son or daughter whilst they are at home, please do not hesitate to contact us on any of the above emails and I will ask that our well-being team contacts you as soon as they can.

If you do not have access to email, please call us on the number above regarding any of this information.

In-line with DfE guidance we will be contacting any student who is 'Looked After', has an EHCP or who we consider to be vulnerable on a daily basis. Please note that we consider a student to be vulnerable if they are not accessing remote learning on a regular basis.

Furthermore, we have been advised by Public health professionals that the following should be followed:

- Daily Covid-19 Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) taken at home by all Academy students.
- All family members to take a COVID-19 LFT test twice per week, with as many as one in three cases of COVID-19 are in people who have no symptoms. Free testing kits can be obtained via the Community Collect initiative <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> or collect a supply of them to take at home from one of our Hubs or the Mobile Testing Unit. Further information on testing can be found [here](#)

Thank you for your support during these challenging times.

Yours Faithfully



Mr R Cornell

Acting Head of Academy