

Thursday 30th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware we are experiencing a significant number of student and teaching staff Covid-19 cases in the Academy at present. I have discussed the situation with Public Health (Solihull and England), the Department for Education and following a full analysis of our cases, they have asked us to take the following actions:

- The Academy will be closed to students in years 9 and 10 from Monday 4th – Friday 8th October.
- The Academy will be open as normal all week to students in year 7, 8 and 11.

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 9 or 10 requires a laptop and has home internet, please email the Academy on [sw-devicerequest@smithswood.fmat.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sw-studentremotesupport@smithswood.fmat.co.uk)

If any student in years 9 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](mailto: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 9 or 10 and you wish your son / daughter to attend the Academy, please email us at [office@smithswood.fmat.co.uk](mailto: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.

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](#)
- Vaccinations – anyone 16 years+ is strongly recommended to have the vaccine to protect not only themselves but others they come into contact with, who may be medically vulnerable. To book a vaccine visit [here](#)

Thank you for your support during these challenging times.

Yours Faithfully



Mr R Cornell

**Acting Head of Academy**