

Wendy Walters BA (Hons) MA
Academy Principal

Chatham Grammar
Rainham Road
Chatham
Kent
ME5 7EH

T : 01634 851262

E : OfficeCG@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

W : www.chathamgrammar.org.uk

A University of Kent Academies Trust School

3rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: COVID-19 update following proposed lockdown

I am writing following the Prime Minister's statement that England will now go into a second lockdown starting just after midnight on Thursday morning and ending on Wednesday 2nd December.

In essence, the thorough and wide-ranging COVID health and safety measures already operational in the academy will continue, but outlined below is a new initiative which will come into effect from Thursday morning and a reminder about other COVID protocols which must be adhered to by all students, staff and parents and carers.

- All students and staff from Thursday will be required to wear face masks when moving around the academy site and including between buildings (as stipulated by PHE and DfE legislation) and in all public areas - unless they are eating. It is at such times that maintaining social distance can be challenging and the wearing of face coverings will add an additional layer of protection to the stringent health and safety measures already in place around the site. We will be providing students and staff with two plain black material masks this week. Please ensure that they are washed on a daily basis and labelled with the student's name if possible.
- All students will be given a short induction with advice on the correct use of face masks and the reasons for their use as an imperative safeguarding measure.
- If students wish to wear masks in lessons too, then this will be permitted and we would actively encourage them to do so even though this is not a statutory requirement.
- Teaching staff will also be actively encouraged to wear visors in class to deliver their lessons, but again this is currently not a statutory requirement.
- All cleaning, maintenance, grounds and catering staff will wear masks when moving around the school site and where their role requires closer contact with students; e.g. catering, cleaning etc.
- Students who travel to and from school on public transport must continue to wear their masks please. Sixth Form students who use the minibus service between academies must wear masks and the bus driver will also keep a seating plan so contact between students is easier to track.

- We must ask parents/carers to refrain from coming into the academy wherever possible and to communicate via email with the appropriate members of staff who will be very happy to help them. Should a visit be essential, we ask all parents and carers to wear a mask while on the academy premises.
- Meetings with parents/ carers will be conducted remotely where possible.
- All assemblies will continue to be virtual and students will remain in their bubbles for these events.

I hope that the above information is helpful and reassuring. These are trying times for everyone, but I, and my staff, strongly believe that schools should remain open and that students should be in the academy and continuing with their education in a safe and controlled environment at this time. I am very proud of the determined efforts of the UKAT team to mitigate the risk of infection as far as is possible.

We will continue to ensure that the comprehensive and detailed health and safety measures we have in place are constantly reviewed and offer the best possible protection to all our students and staff. Their safety, health and well-being are central to everything we do here.

Thank you for your continued support at this time. We will, of course, advise our parents and carers of any additional details or necessary changes as soon as we possibly can.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Walters
Principal

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