



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

22nd November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I wish to write to you with an update on the current measures in place here at the academy to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

Ventilation

All classrooms and office spaces have a constant flow of fresh air, with windows and doors being open to allow good circulation. As a result of this, students are allowed to wear outdoor coats and jackets in class if they are feeling cold. Furthermore, students will not be sat near to any draughts from open windows and doors.

Hand washing and hand sanitising

We continue to encourage regular hand washing and hand sanitising, with many hand sanitising stations still in use across the whole of the academy. Students are still encouraged to bring their own supply of hand sanitiser to use frequently throughout the day.

Home testing - Rapid Flow testing

Home testing twice a week is a key way to keep our academy community safe through identifying asymptomatic cases of Covid-19. Please continue to log the results on TestRegister (a reminder email is sent every Wednesday and Sunday) as well as on the Government website. We continue to pick up on asymptomatic cases through home testing, thereby keeping our community safe.

Face Masks and Face Coverings

Although the wearing of face masks/face coverings are not mandatory, however, we still request students to wear masks in larger gatherings such as our weekly assemblies. Staff and students may also wear face masks/face coverings in communal areas and classrooms should they wish to do so. This is under constant review and may change subject to the level of positive Covid-19 cases across the academy community.

Proof of negative Lateral Flow tests at large events for parents/carers

As we head into the Festive season, we look forward to hosting many events including the Carol Service and Celebration Evening. When parents/carers attend these events we will have all the above measures in place and will ask for parents/carers to have proof of a negative lateral flow test. This is commonplace in many venues hosting large gatherings and so we will also ask for the same as an additional measure to keep our academy community as safe as possible as we approach the end of term.

Symptoms of Covid-19

A reminder of the symptoms of Covid-19 and the need to stay off school and to book a PCR test if students have any of these symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Thank you for your continued support with the on-going measures in place to keep all our academy community safe.

Your faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P Downey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Mr Downey
Headteacher