



16 November 2020

Covid-19 updates at The Victory Academy

Dear Parent/Carer

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been committed to regular and transparent communication with you. In this spirit, I wanted to write to you today to update you on the current situation at The Victory Academy.

Across the last couple of weeks our school community has been increasingly impacted by both students and staff having to self-isolate or testing positive for COVID-19.

Thankfully, we have been able to effectively manage the situation by following national guidance and working closely with our Trust and the local authorities. Our risk assessment and our local track & trace procedures have meant that with any positive case we have been able to swiftly identify any students or staff members who needed to self-isolate.

Across Kent, there is a rise in positive cases, and sadly, the Medway area has some of the highest numbers of cases in the county. Unfortunately, we are seeing this reflected within the families of our staff and students.

I wanted to highlight to parents that we are now at a point where the school is seeing the number of cases of self-isolation and staff absences grow nearly daily, placing our remaining staff under immense pressure. As you know, our priority at all times has been the safety of students and staff and we must consider at all times how the level of absence impacts our responsibility to deliver the highest standard of education.

We are currently working with the relevant bodies to consider any further measures we may need to take; such as limiting the number of students on site at any one time by moving to a rota model for the remainder of the term.



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www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

Director of Education (Chatham): Ms M Gage BA (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

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If we were to move to a rota model, the following would apply for all year groups. Students would either be:

- **Learning in school**
Your child's timetable would not change. This includes their start and finish time as well as their lesson schedule.
- **Learning from home**
Students not in school would switch to a digital learning strategy. Whilst away from the classroom students must stay at home and work remotely. Students would log onto Microsoft Teams during their allocated lesson times to receive work from their subject teachers. Physical work packs would be available for students without digital access.

This decision would not be made lightly and I want to reassure you that we are working with our Trust, the local authority and Public Health England, ensuring we are going above and beyond to keep everyone safe. You would be informed of the year group rota via our usual communication methods, including MyEd, letter, our website and our social media channels.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures currently in place at The Victory Academy; by following these steps we can all help to prevent the spread of the virus and the need for any further measures. All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas; everyone is expected to social distance on site and remain in their allocated bubbles and keep to the highest hygiene standards – including sanitising their workspaces before and after use.

I am confident in the thorough protective measures that we have in place and we are ensuring that everyone in our school continues to follow these measures. If you have any queries please call or email the school office, office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

I hope you and your families are keeping safe during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Gage
Principal



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