

3 November 2020

Dear parent/carer,

RE: COVID-19 TERM TWO UPDATE

I hope you are safe and have enjoyed the half term break with the opportunity for some quality family time together. I wanted to write to you today following the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday that the UK will be going into a second national lockdown.

Unlike during the first lockdown, schools are remaining open and I can reassure you that we are taking this responsibility extremely seriously. This letter will outline any updated measures we will be putting in place to keep everyone at The Victory Academy safe.

In the interests of staying safe my team and I have taken the decision to currently remain in Level 1, in terms of safety measures.

WHAT DOES LEVEL 1 MEAN?

The safety measures we already have in place on school grounds are now more important to help curb the spread of Covid-19 at a time when positive cases seem to be rising nationally.

Please could I ask for parental support in enforcing these measures, particularly in the use and wear of face coverings.

A reminder of our expectations is below:

Upon arrival at The Victory Academy, all students and staff will be required to wear face coverings in communal areas. These include - but are not limited to - corridors, the dining area, Student Services, and all student toilets.

- Students are only permitted to wear a plain single colour "face covering" which covers the mouth and nose held in place by straps around the ears.
- Patterned or adorned "face covering" and scarf or bandana coverings are NOT permitted.

See example below:



What will happen if a student wears a face covering that is not permitted?

- You will be required to remove the face covering.
- You will be required to hand the face covering in to student services for the rest of the day.
- You will be able to pick the face covering up at the end of the school day.
- Students who repeatedly are found to be wearing non-permitted face coverings in school will be subject to the school's behaviour policy for failure to comply with instructions.

Looking after your face covering:

- Students are expected to look after their own face covering and follow [government guidance](#) on wearing their face covering.
- Whenever a student takes off their face covering it must be safely put away or disposed of in a lidded bin.

Student Exemption:

If you believe your child should be exempt from wearing a face covering on medical grounds please discuss this with a member of our Student Services team.

As we reflect on the Government's announcement, I would like to remind all families of some of the key safety measures already in place at our school.



1. MANAGING SICKNESS AND REPORTING

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any of the following symptoms of Covid-19:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

We are going beyond the Government advice regarding Track & Trace to ensure the highest safety for our community. Therefore, any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested. In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England (PHE) and follow their advice.

2. SAFETY ON SCHOOL SITES

We require all parents, carers, adults and visitors to our schools to wear a face covering. This includes when dropping off children at the school gates and entering the school grounds / buildings for any other reason. Social distancing and one way systems are in place for all students, teachers, staff and visitors.

3. SAFETY AND CLEANING

Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. This means regular cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, and toilets.

Hand washing remains the principal means of securing hand hygiene and this will be easily accessible throughout school.

Since the start of the year our students have been successfully using the 'clean, use' clean' protocol to help keep their Year Group Bubble safe.

- Students will clean their hands as they enter the classroom and sanitise their own workspace.
- Students will engage in their lesson
- At the end of the lesson students, clean and sanitise their workspace and hands as they leave



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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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FINAL NOTE...

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last term. It has been fantastic to have our children back in school and we are confident that by working together we can overcome any challenges in the near future.

We will be continue to communicate any updated information but if you have any urgent questions please email office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk and we will respond as fast and as best we can.

Further information will be published on the school site as and when it occurs.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Gage
Principal



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