



20th November 2020

Dear Parent /Carer,

Important Covid-19 updates at The Victory Academy

Thank you for your support and patience as we react to the rapidly changing situation at present. I appreciate that this has meant short notice communications but this reflects the fast changing circumstances at TVA. I am committed to dealing with situations in the most transparent and quickest way possible, and we are working to keep information clear and to the point.

I wrote to you earlier in the week to advise that we may need to take further action to support our school community, due to the increased number of staff and students affected by COVID-19, either through positive testing or self-isolation.

With this in mind, I am now writing to inform you of a temporary change to our school. From 23rd November – 4th December, we will be asking Year 8 and 9 to move to a remote learning system. All other year groups will continue to attend school as normal with the exception of students already self-isolating.

These measures are now necessary to continue protecting the school community and enable us to safely manage staff levels whilst fulfilling our commitment to delivering the school curriculum to the highest standard.

My team and I understand and empathise with the challenges this may present, but please be assured that we will be doing everything that we can to support your families with this change. We will continue to offer in-school learning to our most vulnerable students and children of Key Workers within Year 8 and Year 9.

These new restrictions will be reviewed regularly to ensure students can come back into school from the earliest opportunity and we will continue working with our Trust, the Local Authority and Public Health England to ensure we are going beyond to keep everyone safe.

We are committed to regular communication with parents so please keep checking our usual channels, including MyEd, letter, our website and social media, and your emails.

Pages 2 and 3 of this letter explain the temporary changes to our school. Please read the below information carefully – if you have any questions please contact the office reception.

Yours faithfully,

Ms M Gage
Principal



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www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

From 23rd November, we are having to move to a partial closure with two year groups moving to remote learning. **This is due to staff being required to self-isolate due to close contact, not because of a high volume of positive cases within year groups.**

The most significant changes that will impact students are as follows:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12 and Year 13
23 rd Nov – 4 th December	In school	Remote learning	Remote learning	In school	In school	In school

- Home Learning for Year 8 and 9**
 Year 8 and Year 9 will now be learning from home for two weeks. All other year groups will continue to learn in school, following their usual timetable.
- Students not in school will switch to a digital learning strategy**
 Students not in school would switch to our digital learning strategy. Whilst away from the classroom, students must stay at home and work remotely. Students in this case are required to attend all their lessons – including morning registration, which is a vital welfare check. Students would log onto Microsoft Teams during their normal allocated lesson times to receive work from their subject teachers. Physical work packs will be available for students without digital access; please contact the school to collect these.
- Students learning in class may see:**

 A teacher delivering the lesson via Teams on the large screen to students in the classroom with another member of staff facilitating the room. This would be in cases where staff are required to self-isolate, but are not unwell.

 A cover supervisor or another teacher may deliver the lesson set by your child's subject teacher. This would be in cases where a member of staff is unwell and therefore unable to teach from home.



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We understand that these changes may cause some disruption, but it will help to keep us all safe by:

- Temporarily reducing the number of students on site so that they can be appropriately supported by a reduced staff body
- Helping to reduce the number of students moving across the school site
- Creating extra space on the school site over lunch times
- Increasing social distancing by having fewer students on site

VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CHILDREN OF KEY WORKER PROVISION:

For our most vulnerable students and the children of Key Workers in Year 8 and Year 9, we would like to offer the opportunity to continue attending school for the next two weeks. To do this we will create a new independent 'bubble' that will contain only these students.

We would ask that parents provide 24 hours' notice of their intention to use this provision. Please contact office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk if you wish your child to use this provision.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding during these challenging times.



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