

Harris Academy

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Respect Equality Enjoyment Achievement

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Dear Parent / Carer,

As you will know, the school had two confirmed COVID-19 positive cases last week. I write to assure you that our main focus remains the Health and Safety of our school community. This morning, the Leadership Team met to discuss this in detail and I offer you the following information.

Congestion in corridors at period changeover

At the end of last week, a serious incident occurred at a period changeover where a considerable number of young people were in a congested corridor, attempting to move to their next class. This incident occurred due to three young people causing a blockage. The issue was investigated swiftly and those identified have been dealt with appropriately.

To restrict the chances of this happening again, we have made amendments to our stairwell access to alleviate the need for so many young people to travel in the same direction. I have also asked support staff and teaching staff volunteers to supervise key areas at each period changeover.

I have reminded all staff of the importance of young people (with the exception of those who cannot / refuse to wear a face covering) putting on their face coverings before departure from each and every classroom.

Ventilation and Heating during COVID-19

During the winter months, a fine balance between room temperature and the necessity of fresh air will be a constant focus for us. With this in mind, I have asked all of my colleagues to:

- Continue to open doors and high-level windows to ensure adequate ventilation
- Requested that the heating system be turned up to combat the above

I have also asked staff to allow, where appropriate and safe, the wearing of jumpers and / or extra layers to ensure young people and colleagues can remain warm. This will be at the teacher's discretion and will have a focus on health and safety when making such a decision.

Home Learning for those young people self-isolating

Since our return to school in August, a considerable number of young people have had to stay at home in self-isolation due to showing symptoms. This past week, the number of absences have grown due to the two confirmed cases. For all young people who are absent for a length of time, we have appointed a Principal Teacher of Guidance who has a specific remit of coordinating the home learning provision for young people. Your main link in to the school however, remains your child's Guidance teacher.

The [HarrisatHome portal](#) is a digital tool used to signpost pupils to their digital learning in all curricular areas at Harris. Whether pupils are off on mid-term absence or are taking their learning into their own hands, the portal allows the pupil to be proactive in engaging with learning resources. Anyone can access the portal via the school website, and also from [this link](#). Pupils should access the portal through GLOW, as this allows them to access all files safely and securely.

[This video](#) explains how pupils can access the portal through GLOW and add it to their launch pad. If pupils, parents or carers need any help or support with their online learning it is available by accessing [this form](#).

To ensure the safest possible environment, I ask that we all work together to continually remind our young people of their responsibilities and, at the same time, I assure you the school will continue to re-evaluate and adapt to these ever-changing times.

Yours sincerely,



Barry Millar
Head Teacher