



**Magna Academy**

**Poole**

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Remote Education**

We are incredibly proud of how our students have adapted to remote education and are also pleased at how they are developing their IT skills to become more proficient in using our online platform. This week saw the launch of the live streaming timetable and the feedback has been extremely positive. Both staff and students are enjoying the social interaction, and staff are happy to be able to offer additional support and feedback during these sessions. Our staff are working extremely hard to be able to provide high-quality lessons for students and as part of this learning journey are also becoming more skilled in using our online platform and all its features. At Magna we recognise the importance of learning from others as we strive for continuous improvement, and already our staff are sharing best practice for live online sessions across departments to ensure we are providing the best education possible for our students. We would also like to highlight again that the best provision for our students is online, where they can access a wealth of support materials and can easily communicate with their teacher. If any further guidance is required, then please visit the Remote Education section of our website [here](#), or contact your child's Head of Year.

It is important that students maintain a healthy balance between their school work and wider learning opportunities away from the screen, therefore please do not underestimate the value of supplementing the academy's remote learning provision with other activities. We strongly advocate reading for pleasure, watching a documentary, completing puzzles, cooking, playing a musical instrument, creative writing, painting and physical exercise. From what we are hearing from our families these activities are not only beneficial for wellbeing, but also useful in ensuring screentime is broken up into smaller more manageable chunks.

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

Children's Mental Health Week falls on the 1-7 February. This year's theme is Express Yourself. Magna Academy would like to invite students to share their creative ways of expressing themselves.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing, dance, drama, photography and film or even doing activities that make you feel good.

To take part please ask your child to accept the invite to the 'Express Yourself' Google Classroom which can be found on their dashboard. They can submit images, videos or sound files or just tell us how they express themselves. No other students can see what they submit but we will share entries anonymously afterwards so we can all enjoy each other's creativity. Every entry will earn 1 house point. For more information about the week visit: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

## **Covid-19 Testing**

You may have seen in the news recently that schools have been directed to stop any daily testing of students and staff that had been in a bubble with a confirmed positive case. This updated guidance states that instead of daily testing, any students or staff members that have been in close contact with a confirmed case must self-isolate for 10 days.

The regular testing of staff, vulnerable students and the children of critical workers on site continues. Students have approached this testing regime with maturity and are fully aware that they must continue to adhere to social distancing, excellent hygiene and wearing face coverings in communal areas unless you are exempt from doing so, this to help keep themselves and others safe.

In order to be eligible for funding to help with the additional cost of mass testing, we are now required to log lateral flow test results under the Academy name rather than individually with Gov.UK. Subsequently, Parents/carers will not receive an automated text if the test is negative. However academy staff will still continue to call home for all positive LFD test results.

## **Examinations**

There is no further update or detail on examinations, although the national consultation exercise is due to end this week. We have written to year 11 and 13 students separately this week to help reassure them that they will continue to be fully supported by the academy in order to be able to progress onto their intended next steps.

## **February Half-term**

The Academy will close as usual over February half-term as the Department for Education has informed us that schools are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Remote education will cease for this week with no new activities or live sessions. However, it is usual for students to receive homework during a half-term holiday. Key stage 3 students should complete the scheduled Tassomai activities for their year group, whilst continuing to read for pleasure on a daily basis. Key stage 4 and 5 students will have specific tasks directed by their individual subject teachers as necessary.



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## Contact Tracing for Vulnerable students and children of critical workers

While I hope that your child and all your family remain well, in accordance with the Government guidance it is important that you are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases of COVID-19 during the half-term break.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in the academy, the academy will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as they may have been infectious whilst in the academy.

In the circumstances as set out above, where it is necessary to inform the academy about your child having tested positive, contact should be made via email to [office@magna-aspirations.org](mailto:office@magna-aspirations.org) which will be checked each day after 12pm. Please ensure that the subject line of the email clearly states 'Covid-19 Positive Test Result'.

The academy will liaise as necessary with the Department for Education helpline and PHE advice service to identify and make contact with anyone else in the academy community who would need to self-isolate. If your child were to test positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in the academy, the academy should not be contacted. In these circumstances you should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

The period of self-isolation for household members and close contacts of anyone testing positive for COVID-19 is 10 days. This means that if any member of your household develops symptoms, the whole household must self-isolate until a test result is received. If the test result is positive, the whole household must continue to self-isolate for the remainder of the 10 days. If any other member of the household later develops symptoms, and tests positive, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their own symptoms. If the test result is negative, the whole household can end the period of self-isolation, unless another member of the household develops symptoms.

## Vulnerable children and the children of Critical Workers

It is important that parents/carers that have registered intended attendance for vulnerable children or children of critical workers inform the academy of any changes. If your child is unwell parents/carers should contact the student absence line on 01202 606890 before 9am on each day of absence. We realise that many parents working in the critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home, and every child who can be safely cared for at home and access remote learning should do so. This is an important measure in order to reduce the rate of transmission and to help keep you, your family and our community safe. Therefore if parents/carers have now decided not to send their child into the academy or wish to reduce the number of days required they should email us directly at [office@magna-aspirations.org](mailto:office@magna-aspirations.org) outlining the details of any changes.

## Positive news

Recently our Head of Drama, Miss Bennett applied for funding with the Wolfson Foundation in order to refurbish the Drama Hall. We are delighted that she has been successful in stage one of this application process (less than a third of applicants were successful). Miss Bennett along with other colleagues is now working hard to complete the second stage of the



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application to be submitted by the 15th February. If successful this work would go ahead during the summer holiday and would not only benefit drama but also dance and open up other opportunities for media and photography too. The refurbishment would include specialist installations and equipment such as a fully sprung Harlequin floor, a new audio system, 2.4 metre high mirrors and accompanying barres, a new heating system, a new wall to replace the Bi-folding doors and an LED Wi-fi enabled lighting rig. This specialist equipment would have a huge impact and give our students the very best opportunities to flourish in the performing arts.

### Update on reopening

Finally, despite the media speculation and rumours we still have very little information regarding the reopening of the academy from the government. So far the government has said that they will look to start the process after the 8 March. However, it is likely in the coming weeks that we will receive some further information informing us what criteria the government will use to make these decisions. Behind the scenes we will continue to focus on providing high quality remote education, alongside providing provision onsite for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. The senior team and I have been planning for a number of different scenarios to ensure we are ready to implement a safe return to the academy for all our students when the time comes.

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah  
Principal

### Key dates

Friday 12th February	Staff INSET Day (no students in the academy)
Monday 15th February	Start of February half term
Friday 19th February	End of February half term
Monday 22nd February	Start of half term, return to Remote Learning (Week 1)
Friday 2nd April	Start of Easter break
Monday 19th April	Staff INSET Day (no students in the academy)



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