



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

✉ Ashdown Close, Canford Heath, Poole, BH17 8RE

☎ 01202 604222



office@magna-aspirations.org



www.magna-aspirations.org



@MagnaAcademy

12th March 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

I am pleased to inform you that the students returning to the academy this week have conducted themselves impeccably throughout testing and have come back eager to engage and make the most of their education. I am sure you will be as proud as we are at their approach to the full academy opening.

Home Testing

The government has recommended that after the initial three academy based tests, parents/carers should test secondary school aged children twice each week at home. Although testing is voluntary, we strongly recommend it to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine roll out, washing hands, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will no doubt help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Students will be given their home test kit from Thursday 18th March via their Tutor. I have attached further details along with some frequently asked questions around home testing. As staff we are also following this home testing pattern and have found that a testing schedule of Sunday before bed (or Monday morning before attending the academy) and Wednesday before bed (or Thursday morning before attending the academy) works best.

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and your child can return to the academy.

This asymptomatic home testing programme does not replace current guidance for those with symptoms or those identified as a close contact of a positive case. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a PCR test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known. Testing also does not replace basic preventative measures such as regular handwashing, PPE and social distancing.

Other household members

NHS Test and Trace announced last week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (Covid-19) testing.

There are different ways for a household or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through their employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests from Poole Leisure Centre car park (BH15 1TN) between 1pm- 7pm with no booking needed, Christchurch Two Rivers (BH23 1HW) and the Furlong Centre Ringwood (BH24 1AT)
- by ordering a home test kit online – this is discouraged if household members are able to access testing through other routes. Home delivery should be for those who need it most

Government guidance states that schools are not allowed to give test kits to parents, carers or household members and are not permitted to order more test kits for this purpose.

Face coverings

As you are aware the government's operational guidance for schools states that in circumstances indoors where social distancing cannot be achieved face coverings are recommended for public health reasons as advised by Public Health England. The vast majority of our students have followed this recommendation at Magna. Where parents/carers believe there to be a health or disability reason for their child not wearing a face covering they have made contact with the academy in advance which we appreciate. I understand that some parents may be concerned about their child wearing a face covering for prolonged periods. I agree that for comfort and the quality of education this is less than ideal however many families are in support of this strengthened control measure. I can reassure you that this guidance will be reviewed by the government at Easter. Also, wearing a face covering is not compulsory and no student would ever be denied access to education at Magna for failing to wear a face covering.

Operation Encompass

Magna Academy has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and Dorset Police. Operation Encompass will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead, known as a key adult, will be notified when a child has experienced any domestic abuse. The Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies are trained to allow them to receive this information from the police and to use what has been shared, in confidence. The safeguarding team will also ensure that provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in a domestic abuse incident is in place.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our students and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.



ASPIRATIONS



National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Comic Relief

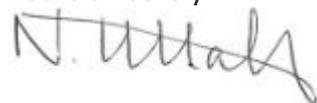
Red Nose day is back on Friday 19th March and members of our student voice have asked for us to mark the occasion and help to raise money for comic relief. As a result students and staff are invited to wear one red item of clothing or accessory, and are asked to make a voluntary donation to comic relief for this privilege. Donations will be collected at the student gates first thing in the morning. Alternatively, you can make a donation via our just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/magna-academy-poole-rednoseday21>.

The new 100% plastic-free red noses can be purchased from your local Sainsbury's store or online. Please note that we will not be selling any merchandise within the academy.

Students who choose to wear one red item of clothing must wear it over their usual shirt and tie, with their blazer on top (no pictures or slogans which may cause offence, no dyed or red sprayed hair please). When wearing one red accessory (e.g. socks, earrings, headband), students must wear it with their full academy uniform. Uniforms will be checked by tutors and Heads of Year during line-ups. I am sure that our students will enter into the festivities in the spirit of community adhering to the guidance above. Any students who are not appropriately dressed will be sent home to change if their uniform cannot be rectified in the academy.

Students conducted themselves excellently when we raised money and wore Christmas jumpers or accessories, back in December. We would like to gain momentum with future fundraising opportunities for charities that our student leadership team wish to support.

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal