



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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Dear Parent/Carer

Remembrance

On Thursday this week Magna Academy came together as a community for Remembrance Day. The entire academy gathered outside on the athletics track, to join together in a two minute silence. The event saw Mr Stoddart read The Exhortation and the Last Post was played by our own students, Lewis Brewer and Zach Best. We are very proud that all students conducted themselves impeccably throughout, demonstrating their strong understanding of the significance of such an event. Many staff and students have told me that they found the ceremony very moving. Afterwards, when asked for their reflections on why remembrance is important, students gave answers such as “it helps their memories live on” and “to remember those who gave their lives to keep us safe.”

Throughout the week, each year group has also received an assembly from the Head of History, Miss Stannard, covering the reasons why we remember; not only focussing on the sacrifices made during conflicts but also more recently in peacekeeping missions and during the Covid pandemic. We have had a team of student volunteers who, over the last week, did a great job and managed to sell nearly every poppy from the three boxes given to us by the Royal British Legion. Finally, students will now be given an opportunity to reflect on the week’s events, by creating a poem or reflection about Remembrance Day, a selection of which will then be displayed within the academy.

Covid Update

We have been fortunate that a combination of effective academy control measures and excellent community support has resulted in relatively low case numbers of students with Covid. Despite this, we are aware that in the wider BCP/Dorset locality there has been higher rates of school age students catching and transmitting Covid, with evidence of new outbreak in areas that had suppressed the virus earlier last term. Therefore, Public Health Dorset and BCP and Dorset Councils have asked all schools and academies to review their measures to ensure they are appropriate for the winter months. This regular review of our risk assessment and the impact of the control measures we have in place, has been an ongoing practice at Magna Academy since the start of the pandemic.

As you are aware, we take very seriously our responsibility to keep our community safe, but realise there is a careful balance to be struck so we can also continue to provide high quality

learning and opportunities for enrichment, which are so important for our students well being.

We have found that the following control measures have been successful and these will continue for the foreseeable future;

- Enhanced cleaning regimes such as touch point cleaning
- Separate zones for social times based upon year groups
- Use of our new covered outdoor canopy area at social times for Year 11
- Limiting gatherings (such as assemblies) to single year groups
- Well ventilated classrooms
- Where there may be some mixing of year groups, due to enrichment activities, students are in well-ventilated areas (we now have CO2 monitors in place) and students are actively encouraged to distance themselves from those in other year groups, where possible and appropriate
- Students and staff are permitted to wear facial coverings if they wish to do so
- Sanitising units are available outside all classrooms
- Students wear PE Kit on the day of their practical lessons (excludes use of changing rooms)

In order to maintain a safe and purposeful learning environment, we have previously asked students and staff to take a lateral flow test twice weekly. It is vital that this continues and we ask that your child is tested on a Sunday and Wednesday evening, or before attending the academy on Monday and Thursday mornings. Families are asked to record positive, negative or void results using the 'report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test' result [portal](#). Please report to us if a test returns as positive and book a PCR test to confirm. Students should remain at home until the result has been received and follow guidance on self-isolation if confirmed as positive.

In addition, as an extra preventative measure we are asking that household siblings of confirmed cases take daily lateral flow tests while awaiting their PCR test results and to continue to attend the academy (unless the test result is positive).

If students are unwell with Covid, they should stay at home until symptom free. If students are unwell, but receive a negative Covid test result, they should wait until 24 hours post fever to come back to the academy. We are aware that seasonal colds and other non-Covid symptoms are circulating, but in the first instance, symptoms such as a persistent cough should be treated as possible Covid and trigger isolation and testing. This is the case, even if others in the academy have tested negative for similar symptoms.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, I am pleased to inform you that our attendance remains strong, exceeding both regional and national averages. If your child is

feeling a little 'under the weather' and does not have Covid related symptoms, they should make every effort to attend the academy. Attendance has been proven to have a positive impact on student outcomes. We are grateful to both parents/carers and our students for prioritising attendance.

Free School Meals

Families who find it difficult to afford lunch for their child whilst at the academy, may be eligible for Free School Meals. The eligibility criteria and details of how to apply can be found on our website. Applications for Free School Meals should be made directly with BCP, using their new on-line application form which can be found [here](#). Once BCP have confirmed an applicant meets the eligibility criteria, they will make contact with families within a week. They will also send a report to Magna to let us know your child qualifies for free school meals.

Even if parents/carers wish to provide a packed lunch each day, it is still beneficial to your child and the academy to complete the FSM application, as the academy is able to claim extra funding called Pupil Premium. Pupil Premium is additional funding from the Government to help improve the attainment of children receiving a FSM and looked after children. This can include assistance with the cost of uniform, educational visits, and music lessons etc. Academy leaders decide how to spend this funding, however a detailed report is published every year on our website.

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum is now well established, meeting each half-term to discuss important academy related issues. Feedback from parents and carers during these sessions has already had an impact on decision making within the academy. For example, the group were very keen for the academy to explore how Tassomai could benefit a wider number of students. As a result of this and a successful pilot, we have introduced this into our Key Stage 3 homework strategy. The next meeting for the Parent Forum is on Thursday 18th November at 4:45pm. If you would like to join the Parent Forum or perhaps attend this meeting to get a better sense of how things work before committing, please email Mrs Stafford (Assistant Principal Futures & Community) at KStafford@magna-aspirations.org

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal

Calendar Dates:

Monday 8th – Friday 19th November - Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Examinations

Thursday 17th November – Parents Forum Meeting

Friday 26th November – Inset Day



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