



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

21st January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Students have made an excellent return after the festive break. A highlight so far has been our first Student Voice conference this week. 46 students took part in the day, enjoying sessions on Leadership and Responsibility, Political Apathy and Representation, and Oracy and Presentation Skills. During the day students looked at our Aspirations Framework, producing presentations on areas within the academy they feel would benefit our students, the academy day or our academy community. Harley Gill, Year 7 said *"The best parts of the day? Being able to hear about other people's opinions, meeting new people and finding out that you can change things about the academy through Student Voice"*. Lydia Hennebelle, Year 11 and one of our Deputy Head Prefects commented *"I feel like I have made good friends today and across all different year groups"*. The students involved will now continue to work on their presentations before sharing them with members of our Senior Leadership Team in the coming weeks. I really look forward to hearing the positive changes they wish to make and supporting them in continuing to develop our academy.

PE Kits

I would like to give families advance notice that we will be returning to students changing into their PE kit for PE lessons after the February half term break. Allowing students to wear their PE kit on the day of PE lessons was a temporary measure, put in place at the start of the pandemic. At that time, the guidance restricted the numbers of students that could access changing facilities, which is no longer the case. As you will appreciate, having students remaining in their PE kits all day has never been ideal as it is unhygienic. Therefore, please can parents and carers support us in ensuring that all students arrive in their full academy uniform from 28th February onwards and for days when students have PE they have a suitable bag to carry their kit.

Covid 19 Update and reminders

Face Coverings

In a statement to the House of Commons on Covid-19 this week, the Prime Minister updated the guidance for schools around face coverings. We will continue to follow government guidance as we have done throughout the pandemic.

Therefore, as of yesterday, students and staff will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classrooms, however they are still required in communal areas such as corridors. Staff and students may choose to wear a face covering and are of course permitted to do so.

In the statement, the Prime Minister also said that the Department for Education will shortly remove national guidance on the use of face coverings in communal areas. I will write to you to confirm specific details in the coming days.

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive, regardless of vaccination status, came into effect from 17th January.

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after five full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day five and day six and do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day five and the morning of day six, they can return to the academy immediately on day six.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day five of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Temporary change confirmatory PCR

On 11th January, the Government updated us on the temporary pause of confirmatory PCR tests. As a reminder, you are only asked to take a follow up PCR test after a positive LFD test if you:

- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme
- have received a positive day 2 LFD after arriving into the UK

If anyone has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, they are strongly advised to take a PCR test, not an LFD test. If someone with symptoms has already taken an LFD test for any reason and the result is positive, they do not need to take a follow-up PCR test.



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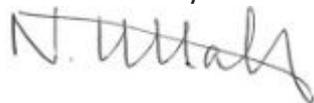
Home testing

We strongly encourage families to continue to test regularly at home. Asymptomatic testing is a critical tool to help prevent transmission of COVID-19. Testing is important because as many as one in three people who contract the virus show no symptoms, so could be spreading the virus unknowingly.

We have received reports of some testing kits being wasted by students within the local community, so please can we ask that if testing kits are not required, that students please refrain from collecting them.

Your cooperation to protect students and staff from COVID-19 is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal



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