

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will have seen and heard the media coverage of the COVID 19 situation within Walsall. Whilst we, as an academy, have had a relatively low number of cases, Public Health Walsall have become increasingly concerned by the rate of infection locally and have directed all schools within the borough to take additional action.

For Pool Hayes Academy, the steps will be:

- Maintaining hand hygiene and ventilation
- Wearing face masks in communal areas (e.g. corridors) unless exempt
- Not holding large scale meetings such as physical Parents' Evenings and staff meetings
- Re-introducing 2 metre zones for teachers to teach in
- Maintaining our split lunch and break arrangements
- Promoting and supporting twice weekly LFD testing. We recommend students test on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

The changes detailed above will take effect from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and will run until we are advised that measures can be relaxed by Public Health Walsall. It is important that students now see a face mask as a part of their school uniform and come to school with one (and ideally a spare) each day and follow the protective measures as outlined above.

Clearly, this is not the news that any of us want to hear, but I do want to stress that we are doing our utmost to maintain as normal a time in school for our students as we can. We will, of course, update you if we have any further information.

Yours sincerely



**Mr T McDowall**  
**Principal**