

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Ambitions Academies Trust

Dear Parent / Carer

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope this communication finds you and your family well. Certainly, we are all hoping that 2021 brings a closure at some point to what we have been dealing with for the past 10 months; sadly, the next few months are going to bring many challenges for us all. I wish to set out to you the Trust's perspective on dealing with the difficult position we are all facing currently.

All of us want to make sure that each of our settings are safe for our children, young people and staff.

What is our current position as a Trust:

1. All staff who are in the extremely clinically vulnerable group or who are 28 weeks plus in their pregnancy will now be asked to work remotely.
2. We are fully aware of the unions' positions, and certainly over the weekend, messages have been clear to each unions' membership – but the message is not exactly the same from each union. Depending on our staff's response over today it is possible that there will need to be a difference in our operation across each academy which will be different to what was published before Christmas. If we have to limit numbers of pupils who can be on-site in any of our academies it will be a last resort and based on the numbers of staff we have available.
3. We will consider rotas being implemented for pupils if necessary on an individual academy basis.
4. We will support the mass testing programme – and whilst the results from these tests are only 50/60% accurate it will give us additional information to consider our position. Regards Lateral Flow Testing (LFT), we will also work with pupils, parents and staff and the self-isolation position depending on results.

Aside from the points above can I also reiterate the following:

1. Keeping 2m apart when this is possible is a MUST.
2. Frequently washing hands/sanitising for staff and pupils is a MUST.
3. Wearing a face covering correctly in any communal area for all staff and pupils in Secondary is a MUST and for all staff in all other settings is a MUST.

Collectively we must ensure we take personal responsibility to always follow these rules. By doing this we can help reduce the transmission, which in turn keeps us all safe. It can be easy to slip into behaviours which don't fully comply with these rules and we all need to politely point out to any staff or pupils that are not complying that it is essential to do so. Your support here in reinforcing this with your sons/daughters would be really appreciated.

Throughout this pandemic I have been so proud of how all our communities have worked together to support each other, to make the best decisions we can and ultimately to ensure safety of everyone is always paramount.

As always, we will be guided by everything that is available and make decisions that are clear and consistent and based on evidence.

Positive and clear communication is going to be essential as we navigate through what potentially is going to be the most challenging period to date in this pandemic.

There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel with the second vaccine being rolled out as of today. If our government and health professionals can ensure the mass vaccination programme is effective we may even be able to have a more normal end to the summer term – that might seem a way off particularly in the very dark mornings we currently have – but is still a positive position I am clinging onto!

If you require any clarity or wish to ask any questions then please do contact your individual academy, Director of Education or please feel free to contact myself. We want to make sure we listen to you and whilst we can't pretend we have all the answers we will do our utmost to do the best we can, given the enormous challenges we face.

Yours faithfully



**Sian Thomas**  
**CEO**  
**Ambitions Academies Trust**