

30 October 2020

## TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the half-term break. In light of Staffordshire moving to COVID-19 Tier 2 (High) restrictions, I wish to update you on The JCB Academy's response.

As you are aware, we have implemented robust measures to mitigate the risk of catching coronavirus in our academy. These have successfully prevented the escalation of cases we have had within the academy. In response to the new tier system, from Monday, 2 November 2020 the following additional measures are being introduced:

- To further reduce mixing and contact, learners will be based in one main classroom and will have all their lessons in this room other than PE and engineering workshops. New timetables have already been emailed direct to learners and we ask that they are prepared for when they arrive on Monday morning by checking these over the weekend. Please note that new lockers have been provided so learners have a locker just outside of their allocated classroom.
- The planned extension activities will not take place on Wednesday afternoons. New times to the week have been issued to maximise learning over the week. Please note that this is a temporary measure for the duration of the pandemic only.
- Classrooms with limited ventilation have been taken out of use for groups of learners.
- All learners now have a seat number for their bus. It is vital that they use this seat only and that they keep their masks on for the duration of the journey. If the cases in the academy are limited, then we will use the seat numbers to track only close contacts of any learner with the virus. Unfortunately, if the cases are such that we need to take stronger action, all the learners on the bus will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

- The academy has further updated cleaning procedures and will be using the most advanced cleaning products available. When applied to surfaces these products kill the virus and remain active for a 24 hour period. All surfaces will be coated with this product every 24 hours and surfaces such as bannisters and touch points on corridors will be coated throughout the day.

We are continually learning about the effects of COVID-19 on young people and it is clear that young people do not always exhibit the three main symptoms. Please be aware that if a young person exhibits **any** of the following symptoms we ask parents/carers to keep learners at home and get a test. You can help stop the spread of the virus by making sure that learners do not travel to the academy if they have experienced these symptoms or feel unwell:

- Fever (40% experience this in the first 7 days). Some young people experience a spike in temperature for only an hour or so.
- Persistent cough.
- Diarrhoea.
- Headache and fatigue (82% experience this)
- Loss of taste or smell (55% experience this)
- Sore throat (49% experience this)
- Shortness of breath (23 % of under-18 year olds experience this)
- Chest pain (35% experience this)

Parents/carers can also help by ensuring that learners follow the new Tier 2 rules and do not socialise inside with people they do not live with or socialise in groups bigger than six outside. It is important to stress to young people that they can prevent the spread of the virus by keeping 2m apart from others where possible and by regular handwashing.

The staff at The JCB Academy are doing an amazing job in planning for lessons all around the building and providing all learners who are isolating with work and live lessons where possible. The cleaning staff have worked tirelessly to carry out a deep clean over the half-term break. I sincerely thank all staff and learners for their extra effort to support us all in keeping each other safe. I thank parents/carers for their continued support and suggestions during this time. I must stress that the best place for learners is at school; it is vitally important for their wellbeing that they are learning and socialising with their peers

Enjoy the weekend and I look forward to welcoming learners and staff back next week.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J McGuirk  
Principal