

## Woodkirk Academy

&  
The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

19 March 2021

Dear Parent

We have very much enjoyed this week with all of the students back on site. The ease with which the vast majority have adapted to the return has been incredibly impressive. Attendance throughout the week has been excellent too, at an average of 97%. This compares favourably to national figures and returns Woodkirk to attendance levels seen prior to the pandemic. With such high attendance, more students are able to make the most of the opportunities made available to them in school.

Approximately two thirds of our students are now completing tests at home. Thank you to those who have logged the results using the Form in MS Teams. Please do not log results with the school in any other way (posting into MS Teams or email). This is important to allow us to monitor test completion and manage stock. If your son/daughter does test positive on the lateral flow test, the whole household should start to self-isolate and a confirmatory PCR test should be booked. In addition, the result should be logged with school (via the MS Teams Form discussed above) and the Form on the website [here](#) should be completed. In line with government guidance, we will then complete contact tracing and students will be instructed to self-isolate. If the result of the PCR test is negative, all students will be contacted and invited to return to school as soon as possible.

We have had confirmation of two positive cases this week. Thank you to all those involved in the prompt sharing of information and actions necessary to ensure close contacts were able to return home swiftly to begin their self-isolation. Please be reminded that the lateral flow tests should be used only by asymptomatic people. Anybody with symptoms should immediately self-isolate and should book a PCR test. A negative lateral flow test does not remove the need for the PCR test.

Some members of our community may be questioning whether lateral flow and PCR tests can continue to be undertaken during Ramadan. We have received notification from the Department for Education that the British Islamic Medical Association has stated that taking a test **does not** invalidate the fast. Further information can be found [here](#) on the British Islamic Medical Association's website.

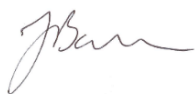
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This week has seen some changes on our Local Governing Board. Firstly, one of our parent governors, Esther Powell, has resigned. We would like to thank Esther for her contribution and support. We will seek to elect a new parent governor and details of this will be shared soon. Secondly, our longest serving governor, Tony Grayson, has decided to retire. Tony has made a huge contribution to the work of the school in his over 30 years of service and his considerable knowledge and experience will be missed. Tony will continue to serve as a Member for Leodis Academies Trust. We wish him all the very best and thank him for his considerable efforts.

Students who were due to sit external exams this summer will have received an email today with further information about these. They will be able to access the schedule and subject content guidance for mini-assessments via OPT later today.

Finally, it was this week last year that saw the closure nationally of schools at the start of the pandemic. This was followed shortly after by the first national lockdown. At the time, none of us knew what lay ahead. Students, staff and parents continue to demonstrate tremendous resilience, fortitude and support for each other. We thank all in our community for this. On Tuesday, the Academy will, alongside the nation, pause for reflection on the events of the last year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Barton  
Principal



Mr T Jones  
Associate Principal