



SALTLEY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

10th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this newsletter finds you well; I would like to take an opportunity to update you on school life, including some of the issues that we are facing and key deadlines coming up before the end of term.

Firstly, I have the pleasurable task of announcing that Mr Khan was successfully appointed as permanent Deputy Headteacher. Most of you will know Mr Khan from his years of service at Saltley, from the community but also that he has been in the role for over a year and half already, meeting and working with families and students. Mr Khan will continue his focus on Personal Development and the Wellbeing of our pupils.

Year 11 results day and assessment policy

You will have recently been sent a text which directs you to a policy on our website regarding our procedures for the assessments for Year 11 grades this year. I would urge all parents to be familiar with the policy, so that you know what to expect on results day (August 12th) <http://saltley.academy/awarding-gcse-grades-in-2021/>.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff at Saltley for their dedication and hard work in marking and preparing all of the assessments for Year 11 students, a role that is usually carried out by the examination board. Again, during the last few weeks, not only have our students coped exceptionally well with the demands of the assessments, which have been outside of the normal school day, but for many have done this whilst fasting also. I am very proud of all of the students, and hope to give them a good send off this year with a prom hosted at Saltley at the end of term, more information to follow on this shortly.

Over the past few weeks we have witnessed an increased number of pupils in school despite a member of their household having tested positive for COVID-19. I would like to take this opportunity to remind families of the protocols and procedures that are in place at Saltley to help us to keep our school community as safe as possible.

COVID-19 symptoms within your household

If your child **or any other member of your household** is displaying any symptoms of coronavirus, you **should not send your child to school** until the symptomatic individual has had a PCR test that has come back negative.

If **any member of your household** tests positive for COVID-19 you **should inform the school immediately and all members of your household should isolate for 10 days**, as per government guidelines.

Home Testing

Home testing is available to all pupils, and should be conducted on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Test kits are distributed to all pupils on a regular basis to allow testing to take place twice weekly. Test kits for all other household members are available free of charge in local pharmacies and online.

If anyone in your household tests positive on a home test **you, your household and any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You should order a confirmatory PCR test to follow up a positive home test. If the PCR test comes back negative it will override the home test result.

Reading the result on a home test kit

A negative result is indicated by one line next to the 'C' on the test strip. This is the control line. If there is no trace of another line by the 'T' then the result is negative. However, a positive result (indicated by a line next to the 'T') can be a lot fainter and harder to spot than people may expect.

All of the results pictured below are positive. As you can see, the positive indicator appears as a very faint grey/purple line. It is essential that you leave the test a full 30 minutes for the result to develop properly, and you must examine the test strip very carefully to ensure you are reading the result correctly.



On-site testing

If for any reason you would like your child to continue their testing at school rather than testing at home, please inform us on enquiry@saltley.academy and we will be happy to make arrangements for this to take place. We are currently still running onsite testing for a small number of pupils on Monday and Thursday mornings before lessons begin.

Bubble closures

If we are made aware of a positive case within school, we are still obligated to isolate close contacts, which is generally the year group within the house bubble that the individual is in. However, when a

pupil tests positive on a home testing kit they are now required to get a confirmatory PCR test - these tests are slightly more sensitive than LFD tests, and therefore if this test comes back negative it will override the LFD result and the pupil and their close contacts can return to school and end their isolation period.

During a bubble closure all lessons will be delivered remotely on Microsoft Teams, with some of them being live. **If your child does not have access to a suitable device then they are eligible to take a laptop on loan from our school library.** Uptake of remote learning during the most recent bubble closures has been poor, and with the education that has already been missed we can't afford for our pupils to miss out on the content available to them. It is therefore essential that in the event of your child's bubble closing they are accessing all remote lessons and all materials available to them.

Rights Respecting Schools Award

Our commitment to being a Gold Rights Respecting School continues over the next few months with our re-accreditation assessment at the end of June, which marks 3 years since we gained the prestigious award. As parents you should see your children becoming more involved in activities that seek to preserve and promote the United Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as the Covid restrictions lift and allow us the freedom to do more in school. Recently Saltley students collected and raised money to send educational resources to Africa. Article 28 of the UNCRC says that children and young people have the right to education no matter who they are: regardless of race, gender or disability; if they're in detention, or if they're a refugee. At Saltley we understand that not every child gets the same right to education as we do, and we hope these resources will go some way in addressing this important issue.



Punctuality

I hope your child has spoken to you or you have witnessed yourself our very positive start to the day with all pupils lining up on the playground, before being welcomed into school by their Form Tutor and Head of House. Not only has this allowed us to put into place social distancing measures for Covid, but it has set the tone even more for the standards of behaviour and conduct we expect from pupils at Saltley. What it has also done however, is highlight the poor punctuality by too many of our students. We expect students to be lined up at 08:30 ready to start the school day, and as parents I ask for your support to ensure that your child is on time and working towards our high expectations.

For those of you that know me, you will know that I live in Worcester and travel 50 miles to work every morning, leaving my house at 6am, to ensure I am here on time. The overwhelming majority of Saltley students live in walking distance of the school. Whilst I appreciate mornings can be a very busy period of the day, this is not an excuse for poor punctuality. We have missed so much education this last year, that we do not have the time to waste but it is also my duty to prepare students for life in the workplace where these standards would not be accepted either. Please expect greater sanctions on poor punctuality for the future and thank you in advance for your support.

Year 11 laptops

During this last year we have been able to lend laptops to students for home working. It is now time that I ask for the return of Year 11 student's laptops. House teams will be speaking to families individually to request the return shortly. If your child would like to borrow a laptop for the remainder of the year, we now have a lending scheme in the library for laptops, which are much newer and a better specification than the government laptops we had to use at the time. I must stress that I will restrict access to the Year 11 prom and issuing of exam results and certificates until the laptop is returned. These laptops were loaned under this scheme and are from the government and not school property; however, the school will be liable for the cost if it is not returned, which is why I need to be so strict about their return.

Parking

For those that are present at the end of the day, you will have seen me having to challenge parents for their poor parking outside of the school gates. The highway code applies at all times, including outside of school, and I do not think it should be my role, or that of my staff to remind parents to not park on the yellow zig-zag lines, double yellow lines or park on the pavement. I think it is obvious to see that this parking causes an unsafe exit for the 1200 students at Saltley, and frankly I think the examples of poor parking demonstrate a selfish behaviour by a small minority of parents who seek an "easier" collection of their child, whilst putting the safety at risk for everyone else. I will be working with the Local Authorities on this issue and heavily sanctioning offenders. Please, let us see the end to this behaviour.

Eid Mubarak to all our families.

P White

Mr P White
Head of Academy