

6 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You will no doubt have read, or heard of, the report in the Newmarket Journal confirming that we have had cases of COVID-19 at the school. I can confirm that these five cases are not new ones but are the ones that we have already written to you about. There have been 3 students test positive (one of which had not been in school) and two staff. We have, as you would expect, followed the guidance on what action we should take very precisely. We will continue to inform you in the event of further cases. I would also like to thank the many parents who have contacted us to thank us for how we have managed the Covid situation and posted supportive comments on social media. This support means a lot to all the staff at the Academy.

You will also know that the government's guidance is now in line with that which we have been promoting for some weeks with regard to the wearing of masks. We have been issuing masks to students who forget their own masks and will continue to do so. I would urge you to provide masks to your children as the ones we are giving out are disposable ones and should not be worn on the following day.

I realise that in the current circumstances, talk of homework may seem a far cry from our Covid measures. However, alongside managing the health issues around COVID, we are trying to deliver our COVID recovery curriculum. We are already aware that all of our students have missed considerable periods of learning and we are working to fill those gaps. Part of our strategy is to set regular homework tasks, as this allows us to fill gaps, reinforce knowledge and further identify outstanding knowledge gaps. Our data suggests that non-completion of these tasks is an issue, and we would ask you to work with us by checking that your son or daughter knows what tasks they have to complete and has the necessary equipment and time to complete them. We will be monitoring completion rates carefully and reserve the right to issue detentions where homework is not being completed. Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance if you need any additional support, or the subject teacher if you need an explanation of the task.

We remain committed to providing the best possible learning in the safest conditions and appreciate your ongoing support.

Stay safe and please do get in touch if you have queries, questions or concerns.

With best wishes

Nick Froy
Executive Headteacher
Newmarket Academy and Sybil Andrews Academy