

Our Ref: SW/NC  
11 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been advised of a number of cases of Covid-19 across various Year Groups in the Academy. NHS test and trace have been in contact with individuals who have been identified as a close contact to let them know if they are required to obtain a PCR test, self-isolate, or to provide further advice.

The Academy remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. Students who are showing symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend the Academy, but should seek a PCR Test as soon as possible. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

We have liaised with Public Health Durham and have decided that as of Tuesday 12 October, **all students will be expected to wear a mask at all times when they are indoors**, this includes **lessons** and in **communal areas** (students who are medically exempt will not need to follow this guidance). Students are also expected to **wear masks when accessing transport** to and from the Academy.

We intend to keep these measures in place until **Thursday 21 October** when they will be reviewed. We will monitor cases across the half term holiday and then revisit this guidance when students return on 01 November. All students have today been informed of this measure, as well as other actions to minimise the spread of Covid. This increase in cases was expected as students mix more both in and out of school, and as the weather changes, but we are confident that if students follow the guidance above, cases will return to previous levels.

We are currently awaiting information on the vaccination program for 12-15-year olds in school, and will contact you as soon as we have further information. Please note that no students will be vaccinated without parental consent.

### How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 16 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas

Headteacher: **Mr S Whitehead BA NPQH**

Academy Trust registered company name trading as: **King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland**

Registered Office Address: **South Church Road, Bishop Auckland. County Durham DL14 7JZ**

Tel: **01388 603388** Email: [kingjames@kj1a.com](mailto:kingjames@kj1a.com)

A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number: 7638979

Charity Registration Number: 527392



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values



arts colleges



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Healthy Schools



school achievement award



Creative Partnerships



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust



- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places

### Further information

Further information is available at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

Yours faithfully

Mr S Whitehead  
Headteacher



Living the Olympic  
and Paralympic Values



Headteacher: **Mr S Whitehead BA NPQH**

Academy Trust registered company name trading as: **King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland**

Registered Office Address: **South Church Road, Bishop Auckland. County Durham DL14 7JZ**

Tel: **01388 603388** Email: **kingjames@kj1a.com**

A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number: 7638979

Charity Registration Number: 527392