

22nd October 2020

**Parents and Carers
of TQEA students**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this letter finds you well and safe. In this final week before the half term break I wanted to thank you for your unstinting support of us at TQEA and to praise your children and our students on the way they have undertaken this half-term. It has been a half-term with a difference with bubbles, one-way systems and safety routines. It has been challenging for all of us although it has been an amazing term so far and it has been wonderful to see our students back in the academy.

You will be aware from the news that in our local area the number of Covid-19 cases have been rising and, whilst North Warwickshire remains a tier 1 area at the time of writing, it is likely that this trend will continue. You will no doubt have heard that across the country a large number of schools have faced bubble, class and, on occasion, whole school closures. At the moment we have not had a confirmed Covid-19 case in our academy community and I am thankful for the work done by everyone to keep us safe. However, we can't be complacent and we have noticed that very few students are wearing masks in unventilated indoor areas such as corridors and dining areas. This concerns us since if we are to continue to mitigate against the infection entering the academy, we need to do all that we can in these areas where risk could potentially be higher.

As such, from **Monday 2nd November 2020** our default position is that we will expect students to wear masks indoors at all times (other than in lessons where risk reduction procedures and ventilation is present to mitigate risk). However, parents/carers can give a formal instruction to us, unless government legislation changes, that their child is opting out of wearing a mask indoors. In these cases please e-mail:- info@tqea.org.uk before **Friday 30th October 2020** stating a reason for your child not wearing a mask. We will issue those children with an exemption card that verifies that they have opted out.

In cases where students are wearing masks they must be provided by parents/carers and students must look after them appropriately with hygiene in mind. It is also important that the mask is appropriate to wear in its design for the environment of a school academy. If there are changes in government guidance in the coming weeks, please be rest assured that we will inform you.

I am under no illusions that this is a challenging period for our community and for our academy. Please understand that these changes are introduced for one reason only, which is to do all we can to protect our community as much as possible. Therefore, thank you in advance of your understanding and your co-operation.

Best regards



Neil Harding
Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy



**The Queen Elizabeth
Academy**

“We Can and We Will”