



Da Vinci Academy  
A L.E.A.D. Academy



**Headteacher:** Mrs. Katie Roberts

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Monday 16 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Da Vinci Academy COVID-19 Update

I want to start by thanking you for your overwhelming support during these challenging times. Your kind words and positive feedback mean everything to our staff and myself.

Our systems and procedures continue to develop as the national picture changes and guidance evolves. Please note that all decisions are made in full compliance with government and Trust instructions including those around school remaining open and isolation of student groups.

Following various discussions with several parents and at their request, I am therefore writing to clarify a number of aspects:

**Isolation and siblings** – sisters and brothers of isolating year group students can still attend school as long as they and the rest of the household do not have symptoms and have not had a positive test result.

**Waiting for test results** – students waiting for test results must not come to school. If they have symptoms then their siblings should not come to school either.

**COVID-19 test results** – please inform school of all test results whether positive or negative.

**School opening** - guidance requires secondary schools to stay open as much as possible. Phone calls with the DfE/ PHE have given clear instructions to avoid whole year group closure. Going forward, and in line with guidance as well as best practice in other schools, isolation will therefore be based on seating plans and friendship groups. This means that a positive case will not necessarily lead to whole year group closure. This is a change to our previous process and will be implemented immediately.

Further communication as determined by the DfE will be sent out later today with regards to the current situation for different year groups.

**Home learning** – all isolating students should be completing work at home. Please contact tutors and heads of year with any queries or if further support is required.

**Phone messages** – if you leave a message with regards student absence then please ensure you leave detail about the nature of the illness and any symptoms as relevant.



Registered no. 08296921



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**Staff** – we are delighted that staffing levels have enabled us to maintain teaching to date. Like students, we have staff who are absent from school for a variety of reasons including isolating due to symptoms. I would like to acknowledge the amazing job of many staff in setting work for those at home and teaching from their homes to those in school.

**Student and staff wellbeing** – we recognise that this is a very unsettling time for everyone. As individuals, we respond differently. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are unsure about any aspect or want to talk anything through. We are doing our very best to support everyone at this time.

Sending our warmest regards to all of our families and all good wishes for keeping safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Roberts,  
Headteacher

