**Great Academy Ashton**

**Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan (Spring Term 2022)**

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Summary

This document should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. Risk Assessment for the re-opening of school January 2022
2. Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance; gov.uk
3. Contingency Framework; gov.uk
4. GAA Full Contingency Risk Assessment

Rationale

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the on-going covid-19 management situation. Step 4 protocols mean that the previous measures of bubbles, close contact in-school tracing and a range of other measures is now no longer required. In summary:

1. From 1st January 2022 schools are expected test all students (for whom we have permission) in school before their full return to face to face learning
2. Those under 18, or over 18 and double vaccinated no longer need to self-isolate.
3. Those who are a close contact of omicron variant, under 18 or double vaccinated no longer need to self-isolate. Rather, they will daily lateral flow test for 10 days
4. Positive cases now only need to isolate for 7 days.

There is a need for a contingency plan in case “case numbers” within school and the local area increase. It is most likely to be needed in light of staff absence rates, i.e. staff absence comes to such a point that we can no longer operate safely or effectively with all year groups present on site.

Additional measures will be required where “…5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period”. At this point we would work with Public Health to establish further additional mitigating actions.

Additional mitigating actions may also be required, in addition to the measures outlined in the GAA Risk Assessment if:

* To help manage a covid-19 outbreak within our school
* If there is extreme high prevalence of the virus within our community
* As part of a package of measures responding to a variant of concern (VofC)

Additional measures already established which go “beyond” that as designated in the governmental operational guidance:

1. On-site asymptomatic testing centre to continue operation until February half term at the very least
2. Part staggered start to the school day
3. Part staggered finish to the school day
4. Separation of year groups during social times (breaks, lunches, before and after school)
5. Second vaccination of 12 – 15 year olds in January 2022 on site

This document outlines our academy’s response if advised to establish additional measures, as directed by public health officials and follows a 5-step level process:

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| Level 1 | Operating fully as per the GAA Risk Assessment for January 2022 re-opening. |
| Level 2 | Introduction of staff-student & staff-staff social distancing; masks compulsory in social spaces. |
| Level 3 | Masks compulsory in all spaces, at all times, for all (staff and students) where social distancing cannot be maintained. |
| Level 4 | Full stagger of the school day so that year groups do not “pass each other” in lesson transfer |
| Level 5 | Operating fully as per the GAA Autumn Term Contingency Risk Assessment |

We will re-open in January 2022 operating at Level 2 as per the GAA Risk Assessment for January 2022 re-opening. Movement between levels will be managed by the Covid-19 GAA Management Team which is made up by:

* David Waugh; Principal
* Deana Owen; Vice-Principal
* Keith Bardsley; Vice-Principal
* Sarah Paddison; Trade Union Representative
* Chris Crompton; Trade Union Representative
* Clare Wilkes; Trade Union H&S Representative
* Dorothy Gilbert; Trade Union Representative
* Simon Nicholson; GAET Representative

…**and** in conjunction with Tameside Local Authority and Tameside Public Health officials. A decision to move between levels **will not** be taken at a local school level only, Public Health officials will be fully consulted on such a movement/status change.

In light of a decision to move between levels the following aspects will be considered:

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| Measure | Implementation | Timescale | Decision & Lead | Considerations |
| Testing | Increased asymptomatic testing on site to 2-per week for each student.  Continued use of ATS site location. Ensure continuity of staffing.  Increased promotion of at-home testing.  PCR tests sent home from in-school stocks | Within 24 hours  On-going  Within 24 hours  Within 48 hours | D: Public Health and Principal  L: DOE | Staffing capacity  Possible need to double testing centre capacity  On-site testing kit stocks  At-home testing kit stocks  PCR testing kit stocks |
| Face coverings | The use of face coverings will be determined by the level status, e.g. level 3 means compulsory everywhere. | By start of next working/school day | D: Public Health and Principal  L: KBA | Stocks of face masks  Masks in every classroom  Masks given to duty staff for student arrival  Communication to parents/carers  Refreshment of “exemptions” list and communication of this |
| Temporary closure for full school cleaning/fogging | In response to a significant outbreak of linked cases, school will close for 24 hours for a full deep clean and fogging. Education will move to on-line remote learning for those 24 hours. | By start of next working/school day, i.e. within 24 hours | D: Public Health, Principal and CEO GAET  L: MHO | Communication to parents/carers  Communication to staff over remote learning expectations |
| Attendance restrictions | Priority given to years 10 and 11, key worker students and vulnerable and SEND students | Within 24 hours | D: Public Health, Principal and CEO GAET  L: RHO | Communication to parents/carers  Establishment of key work lists  In-school working rota  Support staff in-school working rota |
| Full closure of school | Continued in-school provision for key worker students and vulnerable and SEND students | Within 48 hours | D: Government  L: DWA & SLT | Full “switch” to previous remote working for all students and staff with key worker vulnerable in-school provision. |
| Contact Tracing | In the event that the NHS responsibilities are “over run” or require enhanced involvement from school. | Immediate | D: DWA  L: DOE | Establish link to NHS test and trace system in-school to support the identification of close contacts. |
| Shielding | In the event that guidance changes regarding shielding instructions, support will be given to individual staff. | Immediate | D: Public Health; government  L: DWA | Communication with CEV staff  Communication with pregnant workers  Communication with staff who reside with CEV classified children and/or adults |
| Centralised supported testing | In the event of a significant local outbreak, it may be required that GAA hosts a Public Health supported on-site testing unit | Within 24 hours | D: Public Health and Principal  L: DWA | Location of testing units  Communication with parents/carers  Appropriate permissions  Testing timetable and logistics |
| On-site vaccination service | In the event of a significant local outbreak, it may be required that GAA hosts a Public Health supported on-site vaccination service | Within 24 hours | D: Public Health and Principal  L: DWA | Location of vaccination bays  Communication with parents/carers  Appropriate permissions  Vaccination timetable and logistics |

Operational Contingency Measures

It is highly likely that staff absence will require additional contingency measures. With expected covid infection rates nationally to remain high throughout January 2022 it will cause significant pressure on our ability to provide a safe and effective learning environment on-site. We have already established the following actions to mitigate against this risk:

1. On-site asymptomatic testing centre to remain operational up to February half term
2. Additional cover supervisor recruitment currently active
3. Recruitment for additional capacity within science underway
4. Additional capacity already secured in both English and mathematics subject areas
5. Secured, in December, additional supply agency staffing for first 3-weeks of January term
6. Member of SLT trained up and experienced in managing daily cover and relationship management with the supply agencies

However, with national infection rates now peaking above 100,000 daily and the new omicron variant, it may be that we need to establish a partial closure situation in order to manage students on site. The following will be the priority order for protection:

* Key Worker students, vulnerable students, SEND students, students with social care involvement. A full in-school provision will remain for all such designated students. They will access a hybrid learning provision, e.g. a mixture of accessing “live lessons” via in-school IT facilities and also face-to-face learning with a specific focus on English and mathematics and active sport.
* Year 11 (examinations) and Year 7 (childcare)
* Year 10 (examinations) and Year 8 (childcare)
* Year 9

Therefore, if we need to temporarily move a year group to remote learning, we will move in the following way:

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| Remote Learning Level 1 | Year 9 | Initial 2-working day remote learning with decision over future arrangements made at end of day 1. |
| RL Level 2 | Year 8 & 9 | Initial 2-working day remote learning with decision over future arrangements made at end of day 1. |
| RL Level 3 | Year 8, 9 & 10 | Initial 2-working day remote learning with decision over future arrangements made at end of day 1. |
| RL Level 4 | Whole School | Initial 2-working day remote learning with decision over future arrangements made at end of day 1. |

If we move to remote learning for a year group(s), the lessons will be delivered through “live streaming” via Microsoft Teams. This may be through their own class teacher, if available, or by merging classes together on-line and facilitating a whole/part year group delivery of a subject.

It is highly likely that the need to move to “Remote Learning” levels will need to be made on the morning of the staff absence. Every opportunity will be taken to ascertain this the evening before; however, it may not be possible.

The decision will be made by:

* David Waugh (Principal)
* Becky Holroyd (Assistant Principal)
* Deana Owen (Vice Principal)
* Keith Bardsley (Vice Principal)

Upon making the decision, the following communication responsibilities will be undertaken:

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| --- | --- |
| David Waugh | * Chief Executive Officer * Chair of Governors * Tameside Local Authority (Tim Bowman & Jane Sowerby) |
| Deana Owen | * Parents/Carers of affected year group(s) * Year Leaders & Managers of affected year group(s) * Parents/Carers of non-affected year group(s) i.e. clarification that their year groups remain on-site. * Attendance Team |
| Keith Bardsley | * Teaching Staff: instruction to move on-line for affected year group(s) * Update note on website * Update note on social media (twitter & Facebook) |
| Becky Holroyd | * Reception and main office staff (Joanne Schollar) * Catering Staff (Jackie Siddall) * Affected supply staff and covid testing centre staff |

Upon making the decision to temporarily close, a review meeting will be held at 4pm on Day 1 of partial closure.

To support the on-going management of the operations of our school, the following staff are requested to test daily each morning:

* SLT members
* IT technicians
* Site team
* Main office staff
* Laura O’Brien, Dave Rathbone, Jayne Bennett
* Each Year Manager and Year Leader

It is essentially that we protect our school operations and while we ascertain the staffing levels over the first three weeks of term, it is essential that we monitor more closely those staff who are “operationally mission critical”. This action is in place from 3rd January 2022 until 28th January 2022 and will be reviewed at the start of February.