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| Risk Assessment for: | Re-opening January 2022 | Date: | 2nd January 2022 |
| Assessor: | TMBC H&S; GAA Principal | Review Date: | 1st February 2022 |

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| Sources: | [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf)  [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside the home - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings)  [6. COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance: aerosol generating procedures – procedures that create a higher risk of respiratory infection transmission - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance-aerosol-generating-procedures) |

Overview

Following government guidance, most previous control measures regarding bubbles, isolation and close contacts has come to an end. This risk assessment highlights how we will operationally open our school under the new operational guidance published (link above). The main control measures continue to be:

1. Good hygiene
2. Ventilation
3. Enhanced cleaning regimes

Isolation of close contacts, school contact tracing of close contacts and social distancing measures are no longer required. If a member of staff has been twice vaccinated, or any student, is classed as a close contact of a confirmed positive case, they are no longer required to self-isolate, rather they should undertake a PCR test to ascertain their covid status. In summary, key measures that we are continuing at Great Academy Ashton include:

* **Staggered finish to the school day to support social contact distancing**
* **Slightly later start for Year 10 students; to support social contact distancing**
* **Year groups will be socially distanced during social times (e.g. Year groups in their own block areas)**
* **In-school testing centre to remain in place up to February half term (initially) and all students tested at least once weekly**
* **Test all students before their return in January and the start of term staggered accordingly**
* **Continued increased cleaning schedule; now with an appointed cleaning supervisor to add additional capacity to monitoring and deployment**
* **Temporarily, face masks will be required in all indoor spaces, including classrooms. This will be reviewed by government at the end of January 2022**

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| **What are the Hazards?** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **Risk Rating** | **Current Control Measures** | **Risk Rating with Control Measures in place** | **Are risks adequately controlled for work task to go ahead, or will further control measures be required? (Detail any additional measures)** | **Action required by Whom** | **Date action required by** |
| Direct or Indirect transmission of COVID -19 virus from being in close proximity to people with the virus. i.e. person to person transmission (hand to hand, hand to mouth, hand to body). Or from contact with contaminated surfaces.  Increased levels of transmission with new identified variant (omicron); estimated to be 4-fold more transmissible than original strain and 2-fold more than delta variant.  Increased hazard of absence due to increased transmissibility however reduced level of severity due to milder strain and increased vaccination levels and boosted (3rd) staff. | School employees parents, students and the general public  Ill health (e.g. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath  In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death)  Risk to CEV staff, risk to unvaccinated staff, risk to business continuity due to mass staff absence. | H+ | **Attending the setting**  From August 16th no child or adult will attend the setting if;   * they have any symptoms of COVID 19 * have tested positive in the last 10 (or 7) days   From August 16th no adult (over the age of 18) will attend the setting if;   * they have not been double vaccinated in the UK and have been identified as a close contact of a positive case in the last 10 days   Additional control measures to be established to support risk mitigation of full re-opening of school:   * Years 10 will start their day at 9.00am arriving only for the start of Period 1 (i.e. no form/reg period). To be reviewed at February half term. Note: Yr10 form tutors to supervise their respective home bases during this time. * Years 7, 8, 9 will start their day for 8.40am * Year 11 will start revision focussed form time at 8.40am in their form rooms * “Morning Mood” gathering. Yr7 & 8 Morning Mood in The Street; Yr9 “Morning Mood” in D Block; large very well-ventilated spaces. To be kept under review. * Assemblies to be moved to on-line streaming rather than in-person * Parents evening to be moved on-line * Establish greater social distancing for the external examinations (i.e. 2+m apart) * Daily lateral flow testing to be introduced for key business continuity groups * Staggered finish time to the day, i.e.   + 2.35pm Years 7 & 8   + 2.40pm Years 9 & 10   + 2.45pm Year 11 * Year groups to remain socially distanced from each other during social times:   + Year 7 = The Street   + Year 8 = C-Block   + Year 9 = D-Block   + Year 10 = A-Block   + Year 11 = B-Block   + Vulnerable and SEND students = E-Block   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.  Full contingency plan established to support both a tiered system of additional controls and a graduated response to staff absence.   * 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 | M  (Risk of illness)  H  (Risk of staff absence and student absence) | These controls will be reviewed whenever there is an update in guidance from the UK government  All staff are encouraged to get the vaccine and booster  This risk assessment will be shared with all members of staff  Any contractors/visitors will be advised of any control measures they are required to adopt whilst on site.  Continued “downward pressure” put on in-school meetings with external agencies. Continue with Teams based agency meetings where at all possible.  Communicate to parents/carers the contingency planning framework  Movement of assemblies to on-line streaming  Ensure increased social distancing of external examinations  Establish daily lateral flow testing for key business continuity groups of staff  Establish GAA at Level 3 of contingency plan  Establish Remote Learning graduated response process. | Complete Risk Assessment  DWA  DWA  DRA  Encouragement of agency meetings to be held on Teams  RGI  DWA  DWA  KBA  DWA  DWA  DWA | 1/1/22  On-going  Complete  Complete  On-going  Complete  Complete  10/1/22  Complete  Complete  Complete |
| M | **Hand and respiratory hygiene**  All staff and students will be encouraged to continue with regular, thorough handwashing/sanitising  Good respiratory hygiene practices will continue to be encouraged through the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach | M | New posters to be established across school encouraging hand sanitising.  Ensure every classroom and office has both tissues and bottle of hand sanitiser | DRA  DRA | 5/1/22  5/1/22 |
| M | **Cleaning regimes**  Cleaning is carried out in line with the guidance[COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside the home - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings)   * Cleaning staff are on site throughout the day and regularly clean high frequency touchpoints/surfaces * Equipment which is used by multiple classes, and can be cleaned, is cleaned at least daily | M | Refresher briefing given to cleaning team for the start of term.  Additional cleaners appointed to reduce reliance on agency staff  Cleaning supervisor appointed to support enhanced monitoring and deployment. | DRA  DRA  DRA | 5/1/22  Complete  On-going |
|  | **Ventilation**  Where it is possible to do so, windows are open to increase ventilation. Where it is safe to do so internal doors are open to increase ventilation and air flow.  CO2 monitors to be rolled-out to key areas of school. Initial identification of “show and tell rooms”, offices,  Fire doors which protect escape routes are not propped open.  Mechanical ventilation systems have been set to only circulate fresh outside air.  Staff provided with GAA fleeces and GAA coats to support temperature control.  GAA uniform regulations relaxed to support students being able to wear coats in the building | M | Poorly ventilated areas are to be identified and consideration given as to how fresh air flow can be improved.  Deploy CO2 monitors to key areas and undertake monitoring.  Additional air purification units purchased to support in the “show and tell” rooms.  Fleece jackets purchased for all staff to support balance of working temperature and ventilation.  Uniform updates communicated to staff and parents. | DRA  DRA  DRA  LOB  DWA | Complete  10/1/22  Complete  Complete  Complete |
|  | **Additional PPE (beyond that which would normally be used regardless of covid 19)**  Additional PPE is only required in school;   * if an individual child, young person or student becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained * when performing aerosol generating procedures (AGP’s)   The PPE that should be used in the following situations when caring for someone with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) is:   * a face mask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained * if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn * eye protection if a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of fluids entering the eye, for example, from coughing, spitting or vomiting   Staff performing AGPs in school settings should follow [6. COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance: aerosol generating procedures – procedures that create a higher risk of respiratory infection transmission - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance-aerosol-generating-procedures) They should also wear the correct PPE, which is:   * a FFP2/3 respirator * gloves * a long-sleeved fluid repellent gown * eye protection | H | Ensure stocks of appropriate PPE are sustainable; purchase any that are required.  Submit additional orders for masks, tissues, hand sanitiser, sanitising desk spray.  Investigate the purchase of FFP2 grade masks for all staff and FFP3 grade masks for LSA. | DRA  DRA  DRA | Complete  Complete  10/1/22 |
|  | **Asymptomatic Testing – Staff**  Staff will be advised to continue to carry out twice weekly LFD testing at home for any periods they are coming onto the school site.  Any staff testing positive on LFD will self-isolate and get a PCR test as per the most up to date guidance.  Staff who test negative on Day 6 and Day 7, with a strict 24 hours apart between LFD tests, are able to return to work on Day 8. Note: must be “temperature” symptom free. | H | This will be reviewed at the end of January 2022  The on-site asymptomatic testing site will be fully operational on Tuesday 4th January 2022 for Yr7 & Yr11 testing.  Staff to be encouraged to LFD test on Monday 3rd January 2022. To coincide with communication of contingency plan and risk assessment.  Communicate Day 6 & Day 7 LFD procedures to all staff. | DWA  DRA  DWA  DWA | 1/2/22  Complete  Complete  Complete |
|  | **Asymptomatic Testing – Students (secondary)**  All students will be required to have 1 on school site LFD tests on return to school in the spring term. Students will be required to have 1 on-site LFD test before their return and their return will be staggered accordingly.  Designated testing days are as follows:   * Year 7 & 11 = Tuesday 4th January * Years 8 & 10 = Wednesday 5th January * Years 9 = Thursday 6th January * Wednesday = Mop-Up of Yr7&11 * Thursday = Mop-Up of Yr8&10 * Friday = Mop-Up Yr9 and any remaining   Regular periodic testing will resume from Monday 10th January 2022  Any student testing positive on LFD will self-isolate and get a PCR test | H | This will be reviewed at the end of January .  Establish timetable for students to be initially tested  Establish timetable for weekly testing of students and communicate to staff for affected lessons.  Write to parents/carers in regard to return to school arrangements. | DWA  DRA  LPA  DWA | 1/2/22  Complete  10/1/22  Complete |
| H | **Child or adult becomes symptomatic on site**  Any child or adult who displays symptoms whilst on site will be;   * sent home and advised to get a PCR test * advised to self-isolate pending the result of their PCR test   Whilst a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible and if appropriate, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door.  Where it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.  The school specific isolation area is – Seating by Attendance Doors or first floor landing outside of the testing centre.  The isolation area, and any bathroom facilities they may have used whilst waiting to be collected, will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else | M | Advice is given to families/staff not to travel home on public transport if symptomatic.  Appoint/designate Covid-manager and First Aid Officer | LST  DWA | On-going management  Complete |
| H | **Educational Visits**  Educational Day Visits and Domestic Residential Visits are organised with consideration of hygiene requirements and other controls to reduce the risk of transmission of covid 19.  International visits will not take place until receipt of updated government guidance. | M | Visits have their own separate risk assessment  The school reviews the measures in place for any service on an educational visit (day or residential) provided by a 3rd part supplier | All risk assessments to be signed off by the Principal; DWA | On-going |
|  | **Contact Tracing**  Contact tracing will be undertaken by NHS Test and Trace  The school will co-operate with NHS T&T if contacted by them for assistance in identifying close contacts.  Close contacts of a positive case will be advised to take a PCR test  Close contacts of a positive case who have not been double vaccinated in the UK and are over the age of 18yrs and 4 months will be required to isolate for 7 days  Children under the age of 18ys and 4 months will not be required to isolate if identified as a contact of a positive case.  Adults who have been double vaccinated in the UK will not be required to isolate if identified as a contact of a positive case.  Classroom seating plans to be re-established and held from January 2022 onwards; reviewed in February. | M | Communicate new rules regarding self-isolation of close contacts with staff.  Communicate new rules regarding self-isolation of close contacts with students and their families.  Encourage staff to share their “vaccination status” with DWA to support active management of any arising positive cases. Established through a Microsoft form.  Communicate to staff the need for accurate seating plans to be established on Class Charts. Undertake QA check | DWA  DWA  DWA  DOE | Complete  Complete  Complete  On-going |
| H | **Outbreak**  In the event of several positive cases in the school setting the school will liaise with the DfE | M | If instructed by the Director of Public Health, the school will implement the measures (as deemed applicable) within their Covid 19 risk assessment which has been in place prior to step 4 of the roadmap.  Outbreak management plan to be established and communicated.  Update full contingency risk assessment; i.e. a risk assessment for the full re-introduction of restrictions in light of local public health instruction.  Share the government operational guidance with staff  Share the government contingency framework guidance with staff. | DWA  DWA  DWA  DWA  DWA | On-going  Complete  Complete  4/1/22  Complete |

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| **Review Date** | **Reviewed By** | **Amendment** |
| 5th Jan 2022 | D Waugh | * Advice sought from DfE, LA and PHU regarding “strongly advise” vs. “compulsory” mask wearing. Clarification given and communicated to staff. * Communication reads, “…*Masks. I have been in discussion with Public Health and the Local Authority over seeking clarification over the “compulsory” nature of masks in the building, including classrooms. They have confirmed to be, after seeking advice from the DfE, that masks are “strongly recommended” but are not “compulsory”. The guidance is rather ambiguous; however, it does state that a student could not be fixed term excluded for example for not wearing a mask. Therefore, we must follow the national guidance and the law as it presently stands. In summary therefore, students should wear masks throughout the building, including in classrooms. We encourage them, support them and discuss with them their importance. If a student does not wear a mask, and does not have an exemption, please record this on ClassCharts. We will monitor this for the remainder of this week and continue to support students to make the right choice. Please do not get into a confrontation with students over mask wearing, discuss, encourage, engage and also record on Class Charts. Please remember, masks are actually a very “low level” mitigating control measure. The main control measures remain ventilation, testing (hence why I have continued to keep the in-school testing centre going when all other schools have not), washing/sanitising hands, “…catch-it, kill-it, bin-it”. Alongside this we have masks, non-mass gatherings, reduction in community movement (e.g. remote parents meetings, etc.), internal track and trace, staggered finish to the school day, year groups held in different social spaces, etc.”* * Letter sent to parents to support their encouragement of testing, and adherence to covid mitigation measures. Link to letter here: <http://gaa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Letter-to-Parent-Carers-5.01.22.pdf> |
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| Risk Ratings | Example impact (Including but not limited to) |
| High | Likely to happen and likely to result in the fatality of one or more individuals.  Potential for a frequently occurring serious and life threatening injury |
| Medium | Unlikely to happen but if it did it would certainly result in at least minor illness, injury or equipment damage.  Could occasionally result in a serious injury, illness or equipment damage.  Although rarely, could result in death or serious and life threatening injuries. |
| Low | Unlikely to occur but if it does it is likely to result in minor illness, injury or equipment damage and could, but is unlikely to, result in a significant injury, illness or equipment damage with over 3 days absence |