



Mossbourne Community Academy

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As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, our academy closed on 20th March 2020 for 59 school days. Our academy reopened in September 2020 where we welcomed back all of our students and over 380 students into the Sixth Form.

During the academic year 2020-21, there were a total of 15 positive cases in the current Year 13 cohort, and thus far in this academic year, there have been a further 4 positive cases. In addition to the national lockdowns and periods of school closure, the entire cohort have had to isolate twice for a total of 28 days. Several staff members also received positive results throughout the academic year and so many departments had a number of self-isolating staff members since mid-September. This had serious implications on staff workloads and on students' learning due to the abnormally high level of cover required.

During any period of self-isolation, students could access lessons from home via a live recording of the lesson. However, as Hackney is one of the poorest boroughs in the capital with a poverty rate of 36 per cent and an Index of Multiple Deprivation score that ranks it as the second most deprived borough in London, where nearly fifty per cent of residents reside in the bottom 5 per cent of Lower Layer Super Output Areas nationally, it means that many of our students live in crowded conditions which often makes working from home challenging, and in many cases impossible. Moreover, Hackney has been impacted badly by the pandemic, with both cases and deaths higher per capita than the national average.

Despite the challenge's students have faced, our school has maintained rigorous academic standards: our formal end of year exams (used to generate students' university predicted grades) went ahead as normal, with no adjustments made to content, and grade boundaries remained at pre-pandemic levels. Furthermore, students are still required to follow the normal programme of study, and we are preparing students for a normal round of A Level assessments in the summer of 2022. Our usual, annual Higher Education preparation programme took place in a scaled-back version this year and involved visiting lecturers, application support and a small university fair. Key events such as our annual parent Information Evening and visits to university campuses were unable to take place in-person. As a significant minority of our Year 13 cohort would be the first in their family to attend university (47%), 28% per cent of our pupils speak English as an additional language, and in very many cases parental support and guidance for university applications is limited, we as an academy, will continue to have the highest expectations and will do all that we can to support our students into their post-18 setting despite the disruption that the pandemic has caused.