



4 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

General update – Covid-19, Covid Winter Grant Scheme, Examinations 2021, Year 13 mock results arrangements, Personal Development Day parental feedback, National Online Safety re-designation, Food bank collection prior to Christmas

I hope my weekly letter finds you well as the snow falls in North Hykeham and the landscape turns white. As I sit in our boardroom writing to you, I can't help feeling that Christmas has shown itself to us just a little bit even though we have two more weeks to go. It has been a week of announcements from government with significant implications for some of our year groups. I will summarise below...

Covid-19

As I write, the infection rate in North Kesteven has fallen a little, as has the national average. When I last wrote to you, there were 219 cases per 100,000 people. It now stands at 207 cases. The national average is 127 which is quite a fall so we are still above national by a good margin. The infection rate in Lincoln has gone up quite rapidly. This now stands at 372 cases per 100,000. The last time I wrote it stood at 329. It is clear that Lincoln infection rates have not really benefited from the second national lockdown and remain stubbornly high. I expect that the city will remain in tier 3 unless we see significant change in a short space of time.

This week has presented its challenges with further positive cases of Covid across some of our year groups at the Academy. We remain resolute in ensuring that our Covid-19 security measures are followed but, with a change in the weather, we are hoping for some good luck as the festive period approaches.

If any parents have any concerns at all related to Covid-19 in school, please contact us at the Academy using the email address COVID@srpa.co.uk. This will make it directly to me where I will be able to help and will do my best to prioritise your concern.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

Schools will receive £35 grants from Lincolnshire County Council for all children eligible for free school meals. We are working to put a system in place which is likely to be voucher based and will communicate this detail out next week for all eligible families.

Examinations 2021

By now, you might have seen the government's announcement about the package of measures to address the loss of learning and teaching this year, and the contingency plans for summer 2021 examinations.

I wanted to share these new measures with you. They include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with 2020
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels, to help them focus their revision
- examination aids – like formula sheets – provided in some examinations to give students more confidence and reduce the amount of information they need to memorise
- contingency exams – held shortly after the main examination series – so students can sit a paper if they miss all their assessments in a subject because of illness or self-isolation.

The new measures complement the existing changes for next summer which include:

- reduced content in many subjects
- a delay to the start of exams and changes to the timetable

There will also be adaptations to vocational and technical qualifications to make sure there is parity with general qualifications.

The government has also announced that test and examination results will not be included in performance tables this year. They'll be replaced by attendance information, student destinations and the subjects taken at key stage 4 and 5.

I'm sure you'll want to know the specific details relating to the measures announced this week, so I will be in touch in the new year to confirm that.

Year 13 mock examination results arrangements

As you are aware, **Monday 7 December 2020** is the mock examinations results day for our Year 13 students. The plan for the day is as follows:

Registration

- All Year 13 students are to go to R31 for a short presentation with APA.



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Period 5

- Students go to timetabled lessons and work for the first half of P5
- At 2:45pm, subject teachers are to accompany students to the 6th form common room where they will receive their results
- All students are required to have a conversation with a member of staff to discuss their results; both the student and the teacher will need to sign the results slip to confirm this has happened
- Subject teachers are to support this process by driving positive conversations with students that promote a growth mind-set; that the mock examination results and subsequent feedback provide a fantastic opportunity to fill gaps in skills, knowledge and understanding

Self-isolating students

- They will receive an emailed version of their results at the same time, and will be offered support via Teams wherever required

Thank you in anticipation of your support. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Parkinson via email at aparkinson@srpa.co.uk.

Personal Development Day parental feedback

Thank you for so many parents sharing such positive and developmental feedback in response to our recent Personal Development Day. It is great to have such positive engagement from our parents, with over fifty taking the time to share their thoughts with us. The random prize draw has been made, with Miss O'Brien and Mrs Flanagan both winning High Street Vouchers. Congratulations!

Our students also had their say, providing valuable feedback that will improve and shape our future Personal Development Days.

National Online Safety School re-designation

I am delighted to confirm that we have successfully met all the criteria to achieve the NOS Certified School Community accreditation for the 2020/21 academic year. For us this is a re-designation after success last year too. This could not have been achieved without the hard work and perseverance of Mrs Gilbert and the many parents who supported their children by completing the online training. Thank you!



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Foodbank collection prior to Christmas

We remain keen to donate non-perishable food items to be delivered to the local food bank when we close for Christmas.

If you would like to donate any items, please ask your child to bring any donations to the Main Hall – we are grateful for any donations you feel able to make, especially at this difficult time.

With nine school days to go before the Christmas break, I really hope that we can take a sense of positivity into the festive season. Next week, I will publish arrangements for contacting us over the Christmas period should you experience a positive case of Covid-19.

In the meantime, I hope you continue to stay safe and feel able to put up your Christmas decorations. This week's quote is anonymous but sums up where we are at the moment: "Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder."

Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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