



9 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

General update – Covid-19, Personal Development Day next Wednesday, Transition Awards Year 7, Year 7 setting arrangements, Year 7 SEND reviews, Medical procedure

I hope my weekly update letter finds you well as the second week in October is upon us. We are two weeks from half term in what feels like the longest first half term of an academic year in memory. Clearly, the national picture in relation to Covid-19 is taking a turn for the more negative and at quite a rapid rate. I will try to capture the local picture here for you and what it means for us.

Covid-19

Firstly, I have been asked to add some content to my letter from the Lincolnshire Health Protection Team. They are receiving a large number of queries about whether students need to self-isolate if other members of their household either have Covid-19 symptoms (but have not had a test result) or have already tested positive. If any member of a child's household displays symptoms of coronavirus (but has not yet had a test result) **or** has tested positive, then they **must** self-isolate.

I have been contacted by several parents from different year groups over the past week or so to inform me of their concerns about many house parties that are being organised at weekends but which break the Rule of 6. Whilst these concerns are mainly from Key Stage 4 parents, they are not exclusive to the older year groups. It is most concerning to hear that such events are being organised at such a challenging time. These events clearly risk a rapid uptick in local Covid infections and also risk parents, extended families including grandparents, my own staff and youngsters themselves. Respectfully, if you are a parent who is thinking of allowing your children to host such a party, I beg of you to please tell them no. There is simply too much at stake. Thank you.

As I write, the infection rate in North Kesteven has risen dramatically, as has the national average. When I last wrote to you, there were 27 cases per 100,000 people. It now stands at 57 cases. The national average is 68, which has also risen dramatically. What is more concerning is the infection rate in Lincoln itself. This now stands at 95 cases per 100,000, well above even national average. Not far away, Nottinghamshire is about to be subject to a Tier 2 lockdown from next week. As our counties have a fifty mile border with each other, this is a situation to remain appraised of. Given this, it is important to reiterate that you will be the first to hear from me if anything changes at the Academy. At this time, we remain watchful and continue as we are.

Once again, if any parents have any concerns at all, 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.

Personal Development Day – next Wednesday

Next week, all students will be off their normal timetable for the whole day on Wednesday. For those parents who are not aware, we hold six PD Days each academic year. Each year group will cover a number of areas throughout the day:

Y7

Why go to University? Virtual Campus Tour University of Lincoln, SRPA Values – Expectations and aspirations, British Values – A brief history of democracy and what it means to you, Unifrog – Identifying my own skills and qualities, First Aid – Restarting a heart and other basic first aid skills

Y8

SRPA Values – Expectations and aspirations, British Values – The power of democracy and what makes a good leader, Snack Bar Idol – An enterprise activity to create their own snack bar

Y9

SRPA Values – Expectations and aspirations, British Values – What makes a good leader and democratic participation, Unifrog – Investigating careers pathways to support option choices, Knife Crime - The legal and physical risks of carrying a knife, Enrichment – Team building activities

Y10

SRPA Values – Expectations and aspirations, British Values – Democratic participation, Mental Health - Portrayal of mental health in the media, Developing a GCSE mindset, Enrichment – Team building

Y11

SRPA Values – Expectations and aspirations, Transition to student life and how to choose the right course for you. A virtual campus tour of York St John University, British Values – Democratic participation, How to develop self-efficacy, including motivation, perseverance and resilience, Unifrog – Getting ready for my next steps



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Y12 & Y13

The life of a student and revisions skills workshop delivered by Bishop Grosseteste University, Values – How British Values and SRPA Values can impact others positively, Virtual University & Apprenticeship Skills Show, Unifrog – Personal statement workshops and preparation for next steps, Enrichment - Team building

We are very proud of this offer as school should always be about more than pumping out examination grades. We hope that you will enjoy talking to your youngster about their experiences on the day and that they all find it really useful.

Transition Awards - Year 7

This week I have had the pleasure of delivering the last of our summer colours ties and our Transition Awards. It has been a particular pleasure to offer a bespoke colours tie to Year 7 student Hugh in Tudor House. His transition work was simply stunning so he is the proud wearer of the only transition tie in the Academy. Well done! We now have a display of this work in the Year 7 bubble and will be updating our social media accounts about this later today.

By now, all youngsters should have received their House points which have been added to the system. All students will also receive their Transition Award certificates as soon as I have signed them all personally. Please bear with me as there are quite a lot! Too many leaders always go with their electronic signature. I like to make it a bit more personal.

Year 7 setting arrangements

From Monday, we will be making some changes to the Year 7 sets. We always set our groups but this year it has been more difficult due to the lack of data we have received due to Covid-19. Now that our own internal testing is complete, we can go ahead and make all the necessary changes. You should receive a separate letter about this. If you have any questions about this please direct them to Mr Kirk at gkirk@srpa.co.uk.

Year 7 SEND reviews

During the final two weeks of this half term we are hosting our Y7 SEND reviews. The families of those students involved in these will have already received an invitation from our Executive Senco, Mr Adlington. At the review, you will have the chance to speak to Mr Adlington to discuss how your child has settled into the Academy and any relevant SEND progress updates. The invitation you have received has asked if you would prefer to have a telephone conversation or, instead, a Microsoft Teams virtual meeting with Mr Adlington. The invitation also gives you the chance to offer your feedback on the support and provision that your child may receive.



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Medical procedure

We are seeing an increasing number of parents arriving at Reception unannounced to collect their “ill” children. Students are often contacting their parents directly and asking to be collected. We do have a permanently staffed medical department with fully trained staff. Should your child need to be collected we will contact you via the Academy. It is particularly important, especially during the pandemic, that we are aware of all illnesses in the Academy so that we may respond effectively in each case. I appreciate your support with this matter.

With nine more school days until half term we are about to embark on the final push towards the break. Let’s make this a purposeful time and a fortnight in which we look to keep Covid at bay. A parent recently wrote to me and included an apt quote in their correspondence from Jonas Salk the American Virologist who said “The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more.”

Words well said.

Enjoy the weekend when it finally arrives.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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