



13 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**General update – Covid-19, Year 11 mock examinations, revision microsite & online curriculum, Sixth Form applications & second live Q&A, PD Day next Tuesday, Examinations – Plan B**

I hope my latest update letter finds you well. We are well and truly back from half term and, so far, it feels like a game of two halves. Despite a couple of confirmed cases, we broadly navigated the first half term without major incident, particularly as the two cases were spaced out and did not impact on each other. Since returning from the October break, it has been relentless. This week, we have sent home students in two year groups one day after the other. This has proved challenging for my team and I as we respond in real time to pressing need. That said, we have proved efficient in our actions and remain confident that our Academy remains as safe as I can make it in the circumstances.

**Covid-19**

As I write, the infection rate in North Kesteven has risen yet again, as has the national average. When I last wrote to you, there were 192 cases per 100,000 people. It now stands at 265 cases. The national average is 182. The infection rate in Lincoln has risen too. This now stands at 312 cases per 100,000. The last time I wrote it stood at 239. As yet, it is too early to see the impact of the first week of the national lockdown and the hope is that the rate comes down in future weeks.

Clearly the events of this week, whilst unavoidable, are regrettable and have already had a significant impact on planned events at the Academy. More about that below.

As well as students needing to be sent home, we sometimes also need to cover isolating staff, often at short notice. This is inevitable if we are to remain a frontline service which continues unabated during the national lockdown. We remain committed to ensuring we offer the best possible service in very trying circumstances but please bear with us as this is out of our control.

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](mailto: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.

**Year 11 mock examinations, revision microsite & online curriculum**

Due to the recent isolation of students in Year 11, it is only fair that mock examinations are moved to accommodate this. The examination series will now commence on Monday 30 November for two weeks following the same timetable already published. Arrangements will be made for any students who are self-isolating and will be conveyed closer to the time.

The Frog microsite for Year 11 revision is still live and can be found here: <https://vle.srpa.co.uk/app/os>. Just search for Year 11. We will be adding to this ready for

Tuesday. Despite Year 11s being at home, they can still access the resources for the Personal Development Day we have planned. From Tuesday, further resources will be uploaded to cover themes such as revision in English, mathematics and science, recall & retention strategies and next steps in education/careers.

Our online curriculum for Year 11 is extensive as is the range of revision materials already disseminated. Students should use the home learning plans on Frog, as well as the microsite for revision, to ensure they are ready for their upcoming examinations. They should also use the time wisely to put a revision timetable in place. If students have any subject specific questions, they should contact their subject teachers by email.

### **Sixth Form applications & second live Q&A**

We will still be accepting applications for entry into the Sixth Form in September 2021 during the month of November with the deadline being 27th. In order to support self-isolating students in Year 11, students should not feel they have to ask their form tutor to complete their section if they are at home isolating. We can address that in due course if needed. If you feel there are any barriers to your child completing their application please drop us a line at [sixthform@srpa.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@srpa.co.uk).

We intend to hold another live Q&A on the evening of Wednesday 25 November to coincide with the closing of the application process. Mr Griffiths will publish instructions in order to access this next week.

The Frog microsite can be accessed here: <https://vle.srpa.co.uk/virtual-6th-form-open-day/home>. Should you have any questions about applying for a sixth form place, please contact Mr Griffiths at [jgriffiths@srpa.co.uk](mailto:jgriffiths@srpa.co.uk).

### **PD Day next Tuesday**

We will be holding our next PD Day next week. I enclose the letter from Mr Griffiths with the plan.

### **Examinations – Plan B**

In last week's letter, I mentioned the lack of Plan B for England. Since then, you may be aware that the Education Minister for Wales has cancelled examinations in the interests of 'fairness.' The DfE have since announced that, regardless of the Welsh announcement, examinations in England will still go ahead. As we have been forced to isolate students in Year 11 this week for a good chunk of time due to a public health emergency, it does beg the question how examinations in England can be judged fair and equitable when benchmarked against arrangements in Scotland and Wales. Given the sizeable numbers of Year 11 and 13 students in this situation nationally, coupled with severe regional variations in infection, it is a fair question to ask. I have made these representations this week and will let you know if I hear anything. Be assured, I will be fighting for every child and for every grade. They have already



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sacrificed so much this year and I am determined that I will do my bit to try and alleviate some of the pressure.

Talking of pressure, I am reminded of the words of philosopher Peter Marshall who said “When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.”

We are still here and we won't be going anywhere. It is a year today since we were re-designated as a good school by Ofsted. Although we have lost much time since that inspection due to Covid-19, we continue to firmly head in the right direction.

Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Hardy**  
**Head Teacher**



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