

# Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

Via Diversa Vita Una



18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of a testing week, I wanted to write to you to say a huge thank you.

Our student body have been magnificent as we have faced up to new challenges. They have been polite, respectful and thoughtful around our academy campus and have looked after each other well this week as we have adapted our operational practice.

My staff body have also shown great fortitude in adapting to a very fluid situation. I have been incredibly proud of them for their extra care and attention when working with nervous youngsters through to the fantastic sense of humour they display when dealing with adversity. We are fostering a positive and really quite valuable SRPA 'siege mentality' when dealing with the virus and the complications it brings. They are a credit to our academy.

This week, I have received many positive messages of support from you, our wonderful parents and carers, who have spurred us on to ensure we overcome our current stresses and strains. I am grateful for all of the support as it really does make a difference, especially right now.

After a week where we have made the local headlines for the wrong reasons it is obvious that some criticism will follow. In some quarters, there is the assumption that a positive Covid test in school is due to some failing or inadequacy in our ways of working. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our systems have now been stress tested in real time. I am more than satisfied that, despite some mutterings to the contrary from outside of the Academy, we are fully battle ready, sharp and effective in our virus response.

I will continue to keep you abreast of the infection rate locally. This has dropped a little since the middle of the week to 21 cases per 100,000 but the national average is still lower at 16. Consequently, I would like to remind all of our youngsters that, by law, they must wear masks on public transport.

In case you are not aware, we have a separate phone number for letting us know about student absences. It would be really helpful if I could direct you to this in order to save such a large number of calls going through the main switchboard, particularly first thing in the morning. You can leave a voicemail if it isn't manned at the time in the usual manner on 01522 804693. This will allow us to deal with your attendance query more directly and to provide a better service. Thank you.

Whilst our resilience may have been tested this week, it has not been dulled. I look forward to the rest of the term now with more conviction, more excitement and greater resolve.

In the words of E. B. White, "Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day."

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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



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“This is a calm, happy and caring school.”