



1 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

General update – Covid-19

Just when we thought we had ended last week without Covid incident, it was a blow to hear of another positive case, this time in Year 9. Fortunately, the initial positive case in Year 8 is 'closed' due to the time since the test was positive and the Year 8 bubble has returned to full capacity. Nevertheless, having to send even one student home is one too many and we feel this disappointment and frustration just like you do.

Returning to practicalities, our systems continue to work well. 71 youngsters in Year 9 were sent home last Friday on the advice of the Health Protection Team. This year group has 248 students. Unlike other schools that are bubbling in full year groups, we are committed to safely keeping our students in the Academy wherever we can and bubbling on a more forensic level. Real praise must go to Mr Ward and his team for implementing my instructions so well here. He has done an incredible job in keeping the Academy in the best position possible in difficult times.

However, we are not the only school affected. There have been multiple infections in schools across the county. In our own way we will quietly and efficiently manage ours.

We received praise from HPT on Friday afternoon for the efficiency, speed and accuracy of our systems. We were able to track contacts within school precisely within 60 minutes of the notification of the positive case.

That said, it is no consolation if we are not working to full capacity and I fear this is the face of things for some time. Clearly, this remains somewhat beyond our control as infection rates fluctuate.

I, for one, must continue to plan meticulously for every eventuality and you have my assurance that this will remain the case.

As I write, the infection rate in North Kesteven has risen in line with national averages. When I last wrote to you, there were 21 cases per 100,000 people. It now stands at 27 cases. The national average is 28, which has also risen. It is clear that we have limited time as a nation to get the virus under control before the winter weather really hits. Let's hope that, as a county and a local community, we can ensure that by following the rules we can keep our area at a lower rate of infection.

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.

As it is Lincolnshire Day today and I have a propensity for quotes, I thought I might explore the Lincolnshire dialect before signing off. I apologise if you are one of the 'frim foak.' At the moment we have a stiff row to hoe and we may be far welter'd. Despite feeling a bit arrad we will not be smopple. We will stay positive and gawster where we can.

I assure you I haven't lost the plot!

Enjoy the rest of the week and the weekend when it finally arrives.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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