



9 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Updated government guidance, face coverings, Changes to Year 11 one way system, local infection rates, governor vacancies – parent & community

As we have now completed five full days back at the Academy, I am writing to you with my next update.

We continue to refine our operating procedures on a daily basis as we search for the absolute maximum impact since our return. So far, I am quietly confident in our approach and pleased with our work so far. No return after so long off was going to be 100% smooth and I am pleased to report that, on the whole, the student body have been magnificent in their attitude, behaviour and kindness.

Updated government guidance

You may be aware that the government have changed their Covid-19 message to **Hands. Face. Space.** The virus infection rate is rising and, although education establishments are exempt from the change in guidance, I am minded to change our approach to ensure maximum safety given the new powers Heads have been afforded. In the past seven days, the City of Lincoln has seen case numbers rise from 7 to 33. In addition, I received an update on the infection rate on 1 September from the Health Protection Team that the infection rate at that time was 3.5 cases per 100,000. Whilst it was low at that time and remains so against national averages, it has risen. I await the latest case numbers any day.

With this in mind, we have redoubled our efforts to share the new government message today and we will continue to do so. All students are expected to sanitise their hands in line with our risk assessment and, at the bare minimum, to ensure they do so when entering and leaving the building, between lessons or when eating. We are driving the message home about social distancing on a daily basis but, in the nicest possible sense, it is very challenging in such a large school. I would value all parents and carers supporting us in asking their youngsters to distance appropriately at school. Some are choosing not to whilst the majority are being amazing.

In addition and in line with community guidance coming into force from next Monday, I will require all students and staff to wear a face covering in all communal corridors and

foyers from that time and sooner if they possess a face covering to use. This applies to all indoor corridors, The Great Hall and canteen when queueing. So far, those wearing masks/coverings have been incredibly responsible. It appears to me to be a sensible position to adopt given the changing landscape. I also realise that this may not sit well with some of you. I can assure you that we continue to have no positive cases amongst staff and students when some other schools across the county have been less fortunate. As much as I am able, I aim to keep it that way and would appreciate your support with this matter. My staff body have been canvassed for honest feedback. As I write this, they have been 100% supportive of this move.

Face coverings

I have received communication from LCC school transport with regards to the wearing of the above on buses. They have informed me that too many students are removing their face covering once seated. Please ask your youngster to ensure they wear their mask for the duration of their journey.

Changes to the Year 11 one way system

I spent most of yesterday afternoon speaking to many parents, including some from Year 11. Some really good points were raised about how to improve the flow of the Year 11 bubble and their one way system. I have to say that the ideas proffered were great so we have adopted them. Special thanks to Year 11 parent Mrs D for a great 30 minute chat and a good strategic plan! As of today we have made those changes and adopted new signage and flow of footfall. We will monitor this and continue to review. I will stay in touch on this topic as required.

Governor vacancies – parent & community

We have two vacancies on the Full Governing Body which have arisen for this academic year. One is for a parent governor and the other is for a community governor. These are both four year terms. If you are interested in hearing more about the role with a view to applying for such a position, please contact Mrs Goffe at agoffe@srpa.co.uk. Mrs Goffe is the Company Secretary and provides governor support throughout the year. She will be happy to direct your enquiry appropriately.



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As we approach the middle of the month and infections are rising, it is important we do the right things, communicate well, offer a good strong dose of new normal to our youngsters and hold our nerve. In following the national guidance, it is now time to personalise and refine that guidance even more keenly to fit our unique circumstances. In the words of Churchill, “Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it.”

We will prevail if we pull together. Enjoy the September sunshine and know we will not falter in ensuring we get this right.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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