



25 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 including testing arrangements, Year 9 options, new website, parent governor vacancy, uniform for September, use of phones during the Academy day

I hope my latest letter finds you well as we approach the end of the final full week before the Easter break. It has been another busy but productive week.

Covid-19 including testing arrangements

It is disappointing that we have been forced to send home some students in Year 9 to self-isolate until after Easter but this serves as a timely reminder that Covid is not going away. I would politely ask parents to support the Academy in reiterating the message about physical contact between students. We cannot police over 1200 young people who may want to hug each other and this has caused some unnecessary self-isolations this week as a precautionary measure. The message remains Hands, Face, Space.

In line with the latest schools' operational guidance, we are now scaling back our testing facility within the Academy. There will now be one emergency bay for testing located in the SLC. By the end of today, all students in attendance at the Academy will have received their home testing kits and I have communicated with you about this separately. For any students who are self-isolating, testing kits can be collected from main reception as per my message yesterday to affected families.

As I write, I have only one spare testing kit for the whole Academy. With this in mind, I have requested over 2,000 more prior to Easter. Let's hope that, this time, they deliver on time....

Some parents have queried why we are no longer administering daily LFT testing after contact with a positive case. In the latest government operational guidance, the move to home testing is now in place for all schools due to a national pause on daily in-school testing in this scenario. This is to allow further study of new variants before reappraising this position. We are simply complying with this guidance and will continue to do so.

If any parents have any other concerns related to Covid-19 in school, please contact us at the Academy using the email address COVID@srpa.co.uk.

Year 9 options

We are making really good headway to finalise all courses for Key Stage 4 for September 2021. Although some youngsters in Year 9 are now isolating, we will continue to make contact

via MS Teams or phone in order to progress any remaining options discussions prior to the Easter break.

If you have any further questions about Year 9 options you can contact the team via options@srpa.co.uk.

New website

Our new website is due to go live imminently but, as a result of the switchover, may be down over the weekend as we migrate to a new host. I will look forward to hearing your feedback on this in due course as it is a super piece of work and has been many months in the making.

Parent governor vacancy

A new vacancy for a parent governor will arise just after the Easter break. As a result, I am eager to secure a new addition to the governing body on behalf of the Chair. Appointments are by application in the first instance. For further information and an application pack, please email my PA, Mrs Goffe, at agoffe@srpa.co.uk.

Uniform for September

As our main supplier of uniform, Uniform Direct have been in touch about their plans prior to September for parents to be able to access suitable uniform for their children. Our website has been updated accordingly, please look under the **student** tab, our uniform.

Use of phones during the Academy day

Since our return from lockdown, the prevalence of students with phones out around our academy site has increased significantly. Please ensure your child is very clear that we do not expect them to use their phones during the day unless this is with permission due to an existing medical condition. Our student reception team will always be happy to call home on behalf of any youngsters needing support. Our code of conduct and behaviour policy remain the same.

Although it has not been without its challenges, it has felt great to be back in the building over the past three weeks and in the company of our wonderful student body. As this term has progressed with a return to face to face lessons, it has been a pleasurable experience to hear youthful voices in full flow. As I sign off, I am reminded of an excellent quote from Plutarch: "The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled."



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"This is a calm, happy and caring school."

Thank you for your continued support.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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