



31 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Covid-19 including reporting positive COVID tests during the Easter Holiday, summer grading in Year 11 and 13, interventions in the SLC, Year 11 intervention programme, careers hub 'relaunch', Year 9 Options, Parent governor vacancy, phones and haircuts**

As Easter is almost upon us, I hope my final letter of the term finds you well and looking forward to the break. After just over three weeks back from lockdown it has been pleasing to see our fine student body showing such a thirst for being back. Once the Easter period is over, we have a really good period of time over the summer to plough on in returning to some form of normality.

But for now:

**Covid-19 including reporting positive COVID tests during the Easter Holiday**

At the time of writing, and despite daily calls and emails, we have not received our latest delivery of home LFT tests for students which would see all students stocked for the full holiday period. This is incredibly irritating and I have made my feelings known to the DfE and raised a formal complaint.

As it stands, your existing testing stocks should take you to 12 April. We have been informed that our allocation is due for delivery tomorrow, 1 April. Once we receive our allocation, they will be available for collection during the Easter break. I have asked our Office Manager to contact you once we have received them in order for you to pop in and collect if you wish. Alternatively, you can visit a testing site to collect your own. I apologise for this but we are beholden to the DfE national delivery schedule which has caused the error.

Further to guidance received from the DfE, we can confirm that when students or staff develop symptoms of Covid 19 **on or before Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** and test positive following these symptoms, or have a positive test on or before Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April if they are asymptomatic, the Academy will support in tracing close contacts and informing families where other children need to isolate. In line with DfE guidance, this service will be available up to and including Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April (after this date, you should use the NHS Test and Trace system).

If this is the case, we ask that you immediately email the Academy using the following email address: [COVID@srpa.co.uk](mailto:COVID@srpa.co.uk)

Please include in the email your child's details along with the date they started to show symptoms, the date of the test and positive outcome. We will then take the necessary steps to identify and inform any close contacts.

If a child or staff member develops symptoms **after Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**, the Government guidance regarding testing and medical support should be followed; pupils and staff should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

To support in planning for the return to school after the Easter break, we ask that parents and carers use the same email address to inform us of any positive cases that occur during the holiday period along with the date that isolation will end. Please note this email address will not be routinely checked and is only to be used to keep the Academy updated.

We have also been asked to remind students that they should continue to take their lateral flow tests during the Easter break. Please ensure that you record the results with **both** the government website [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) and also the Academy website <https://forms.office.com/r/qEtQiPprX0>

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](mailto:COVID@srpa.co.uk).

### **Summer grading in Year 11 and 13**

I will be publishing our assessment policy in relation to this shortly after the Easter break. The guidance so far is quite open and the appeals system has not yet been finalised and published to schools. However, we will be using a substantial range of evidence and assessment methods to firm up our final grades. After several enquiries over the past week, I can confirm that mock examinations from before Christmas are only a part of the evidence base and it should not be assumed that any mock grade achieved will form the final grade in any given subject. If any parents have any further queries in this regard, please feel free to contact the Academy via email at [enquiries@srpa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@srpa.co.uk).

### **Interventions in the SLC**

Supported interventions will begin immediately after Easter in the Specialised Learning Centre. Support such as Lexia, Maths Symphony and all other learning support programmes will be up and running. Your child may be supported in this way. If so, Mr Adlington and his team will be in touch to let you know.

### **Year 11 intervention programme**

This will continue after the Easter break and up until the end of the May half term. Please see the previously published programme for further details.



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## Careers hub 'relaunch'

Due to the lockdown and, therefore, a more limited careers support offer, we are relaunching our careers hub next term. In order to celebrate this our inaugural Aspiration Ambassador recruitment is starting with application forms being delivered to Year 7 students today. The deadline for applications is 23 April. These can be handed to form tutors in the first week back or emailed to Mrs Todd at [ATodd@srpa.co.uk](mailto:ATodd@srpa.co.uk) . If parents or students would like further information about this programme please contact Mrs Todd directly.

## Year 9 Options

Mr Ward and the team have been endeavouring to make contact with our Year 9 whilst in lockdown, but sometimes to no avail. We will confirm choices to all in writing over Easter. If as a result of this, any student or parent requires a follow up conversation then please email [options@srpa.co.uk](mailto:options@srpa.co.uk) and we can arrange this after the Easter break.

## Parent governor vacancy

As I mentioned last week, a 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](mailto:agoffe@srpa.co.uk).

## Phones and haircuts

Although I mentioned this last week, the prevalence of students with phones out around our academy site has not decreased. 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. We will sanction youngsters using their phones inappropriately from now on.

We are also seeing the re-emergence of the inappropriate haircut in terms of style, colour and length. Our policy on this is very clear. Please be good enough to ensure that your child returns to us with a suitable haircut for after the Easter break. Please consult our website for the full uniform policy under the **Student** tab, **Our Uniform** if you are unsure.

On a personal note I have enjoyed being back in the Academy and in some form of routine. The past few weeks have been high octane and certainly incredibly busy as Easter has approached. I am looking forward to a summer term with less contractors on site, less change to infrastructure and a smooth run to the summer holidays and examination announcements.



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As I sign off this week and search for my weekly quote, I must be honest and say that I find it one of my weekly pleasures to write to you as we can only move forwards with a sense of togetherness and common goal. It is becoming my little bit of magic in the week. With this in mind, I turn to the wonderful words of Professor Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore who said that “Words are, in my not so humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic.”

Have a wonderful Easter break.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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



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