



13 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Covid-19 including use of face coverings, Medical data collection, The Big Ask, Attendance and punctuality, Transport issues, Sixth form induction**

I hope that my weekly letter finds you well and looking forward to the planned relaxation of Covid restrictions from this coming Monday. With this in mind, we are making some small changes to our risk assessment, particularly around the use of face coverings as you will see below:

### **Covid-19 including use of face coverings**

As I mentioned in my letter last week, I have been waiting for the latest operational guidance for schools to be published. As part of the government's move to Step 3 of the roadmap, from Monday 17 May, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools in England. The national guidance has been updated to reflect these changes.

Face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas. I am happy to bring this change in here and will review it again at half term. In addition, face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms but staff will be able to choose what they prefer to do. I will continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

This week, your child should also receive their latest batch of home test kits. Public Health England and the DfE continue to strongly encourage staff and students to keep to the agreed testing regime of twice weekly tests. As a result, I encourage you to keep testing and reporting your findings through the NHS registration portal and, where necessary using our own MS Form document previously shared with you.

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).

### **Medical data collection**

Thank you to all parents who have already returned the MS Form below related to existing medical conditions. If you have not yet returned the form below for your child and intend to, I would be grateful if you would complete the following MS Form for your child if they have a medical condition. I appreciate that we may have this information already but it would be extremely helpful to receive a new submission as our form has changed and the questions we

are asking are different to in the past. Thank you for your understanding. The form can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/EYLDPmPxm5>

## The Big Ask

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England has launched 'The Big Ask', the largest ever consultation with children in England. The survey runs until Wednesday 19 May and will ask children across England to set out their priorities for improving childhood post-Covid. The results of the survey will form the cornerstone of the Children's Commissioner's 'Childhood Commission' – an ambitious Beveridge-style report due to be published later this year.

The survey asks children and young people:

- what they think is important for their future success and happiness
- what if any concerns they have about their future
- whether they expect to have a better life than their parents, when they grow up
- what they think is holding children back from achieving what they want to when they grow up

The survey is completely anonymous and does not ask children to submit any directly identifiable information. More details about the Big Ask are available here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

## Attendance and punctuality

We are currently experiencing more issues with lateness to school than we usually expect to see. Students in all year groups are expected to arrive at the Academy on time to start their day. We recognise that, on rare occasions, events occur which mean lateness is unavoidable. However, the attendance and safeguarding team will now be issuing sanctions for repeated lateness each week. Please contact the team in the usual way following the contact details on the website if you wish to discuss this further.

## Transport issues

Despite changes to our site which have now been independently inspected as safe for buses to use, the owner of Black Cat Travel still refuses to allow his buses on to our site for the dropping off and collection of students. While we will continue to make daily provision for our children to remain safe, this is far from ideal for all parties and is disappointing. This issue now lies in the hands of the County Council legal team as it is their contract and I have exhausted all avenues available to me to bring this to a conclusion. If your child travels on a Black Cat service and you wish to bring your concerns to the attention of the correct people, I urge you



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to email School Transport on [tsg\\_mainstream@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:tsg_mainstream@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or via telephone on 01522 553436.

### **Sixth form induction**

Our sixth form induction programme is planned over two days on 29 and 30 June. Mr Griffiths will be sending out a detailed letter and itinerary very soon but the programme will include a full introduction to post 16, taster lessons in the subjects chosen and the chance for team building across the new Year 12 cohort. This is an excellent chance to orientate our students here at SRPA and is a vital stepping stone prior to September registration. We look forward to seeing all of our prospective new sixth formers attend.

With just over a fortnight remaining until our examination groups leave us, I am reminded of our journey over the past fourteen months of Covid up until this point. The time seems to have flown and, often, dragged. It remains vital for us to keep aiming high, keeping positive and making the best of our current circumstances. As we make the final push for late examination grade evidence, we embark on an ambitious curriculum recovery programme and we return more fully from the lockdown restrictions I can't help hearing the words of Nelson Mandela ringing in my ears: "There is no passion to be found playing small in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

Let's continue to 'dream big' as it is never too late to succeed.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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



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