



11 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 including home testing, Examination appeals 2021, Transport arrangements – Black Cat Travel, Transition into Year 7 this summer, SSLT profiles

I hope that my weekly letter finds you well after the half term break.

Covid-19 including home testing

This week, we have embarked on a partial reopening of specialist facilities for Years 10 and 12 which, so far, has proved successful. I have been receiving queries as to my intention in relation to any full reopening from 21 June. Prior to any announcement from government next week, I cannot commit to any firm plans for a full reopening. However, there were thirteen cases of the Delta variant in Lincolnshire last week. While this is a small number, I am currently minded to remain as we are until September for the greater safety of all given that we have just over five weeks left of the academic year. Our risk assessment remains in place and the national systems of control in schools also remains in force. If anything changes, particularly in relation to the national school guidance, I will get in touch rapidly.

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.

Examination appeals 2021

JCQ have now published their appeals guidance for most examinations this summer, although the current document does not cover BTec, LIBF and CACHE courses at this time. We are publishing this document on our website today. It can be found under **Our Curriculum, Examination Information**. In the coming weeks, we will communicate with parents in years 11 and 13 with a simplified version of this to exemplify our local approach.

Transport arrangements – Black Cat Travel

I continue to liaise with the appropriate authorities in relation to the above and have now seen the LCC risk assessment for drop off and pick up points on Moor Lane and Newark Road. LCC deem these points to be safe. In addition, we are changing the way that we support students to make their way to the bus from Monday. Increasing numbers of students are not meeting staff on the field as agreed and are making their way to the bus stops independently. As my staff are spread very thin as a consequence, instead of congregating on the field, we will line the route to the buses with duty staff in red jackets so that no child goes unsupported.

Transition into Year 7 this summer

For those parents with children already at the Academy, we intend to hold on site transition events for Year 6 pupils coming up during the week beginning 5 July. We will be communicating this to parents of new Year 6 students via their primary schools on Monday next week.

I intend to run these events in a Covid-secure manner regardless of the government's announcement about reopening due to be announced on Monday for 21 June. Mr Adlington will share further information next week.

SSLT profiles

Watch out for our sixth form student leadership profiles on Instagram. The whole SSLT are meeting governors next week to share their strategic plan for their year in post. They are very keen to have a huge impact and it will be exciting to see what they achieve.

I am extremely grateful for the continued support of our parent and carer body. As we said goodbye to our examination years before half term, it was lovely to see the outpouring of thanks for my staff teams who have grafted for the benefit of these youngsters as well as those remaining with us. It is, therefore, saddening that we have seen a rise in abuse against my staff lately. This can take many forms including over the telephone, by email, in person unannounced and over social media. I realise this is a very small minority of parents but it is important that parents realise that I will not tolerate threats of violence or intimidating behaviour towards colleagues as this simply isn't reasonable. We, like all of you, want the best for your children and will work with you to resolve any worries or concerns you may have, shouting at us and threatening us is not the vehicle for doing that. Thank you for your understanding.

I realise that my weekly quotes often stir up some debate. Each week, youngsters, staff and parents make reference to them when they see me in the corridors or talk to me during the working week in the hope of gleaning an idea of my thoughts. My quote for this week is from the one and only John Lennon from the track Imagine, recorded back in 1971: "Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one."

I look forward to working with you over the next few weeks to bring our academic year to a successful and positive end.



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Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



“This is a calm, happy and caring school.”

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