



9 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 including arrangements from September, September Open Evening and Year 5 Open Event website, Circle of Life Award

I hope my weekly letter finds you keeping well. As Harold Wilson famously once said, “a week is a long time in politics.” Well it has certainly been the case in education this week. With the publication of the government guidance for September as well as new testing expectations we have had much to absorb against a backdrop of an increase in Covid cases whilst the external quality assurance window for summer examinations continues. In addition, throw in some technical difficulties and we have just about seen it all.

Covid-19 including arrangements from September

This week has been a challenge. Cases are on the rise in the community and the increased transmissibility of the delta variant has been keenly felt in our school and many others. We have been praised by Public Health England and the local Health Protection Team for our approach to contact tracing and safety measures this week which feels a bit hollow when we have been sending children home to isolate. However, from risk assessments conducted by outside agencies there is little more we could be doing.

One area where a few parents have become concerned is when we have called and written for a second time this week to extend an isolation. This is simply because our forensic approach to contact tracing has thrown up a new variable which has changed the isolation period for your child. It isn't personal and is 100% based on the data in front of us.

We now know that 19 July is the date given by government for bubbles to end and for isolations to become more limited. For these last three days of term we have no intention of changing anything in relation to our Covid approach or to limit the approach to isolations. Our approach will change from September when we return in full from the summer break.

We are expected to test again from when students return in September and can begin this from up to three working days prior to the beginning of term. This means we can test from 1 September and more than likely will do. I will publish full plans in August once I have confirmed specific arrangements with my Covid Response Team. This is a new initiative from this week. I simply cannot stay on top of all of the data as a one man band so we have established a small senior team group to crunch the data, especially as we are growing again as a school from September. Covid-related letters from the Academy will no longer come directly from me and the Covid email account will be manned by other senior leaders.

I do not intend to offer comment in this letter in relation to the latest government guidance document published on Tuesday although I have been asked for my thoughts through the week. I will watch with interest how this evolves over the summer break and will write to you with my plans prior to September. For now, I want to let it all marinade a bit. However, expect a pretty 'normal' return for youngsters from that time. What is fair to say is that the pandemic has taught us some new skills and, equally, forced us to approach education from a different perspective. Not all of these initiatives need to be discarded so we will work hard to incorporate the best of our learning into our September planning.

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.

September Open Evening and Year 5 Open Event website

Now that we have a broader idea of government planning for Covid, I will be offering a return to the usual open event in September on Wednesday 22nd. This will be subject to some Covid changes but will broadly run as normal for any prospective students wishing to join us in September 2022. I will advertise this again in early September.

In addition, our latest Year 5 Open Event website goes live on Monday for those families who fancy a peek at what we can offer prior to September. This will be accessible via the website home page banner and will remain open over the summer holidays until we return in September.

Circle of Life Award

The 'Circle of Life Award' is a social action project framework designed to encourage young people to create positive change in their community. Students are expected to identify a broad social issue which they wish to change for the better, in our case, providing care packages to care homes during the pandemic.

The team from Disney, who run the project, noted that "The team clearly took great care and consideration to how the pandemic has had such a negative impact on care home residents and have come up with a wonderful, creative and personal approach to how they could reduce isolation. They clearly demonstrated a wealth of project management skills and collaborated effectively.

With the added challenge of Covid restrictions, it is an impressive achievement.

We hope that the students can use their experience of fundraising, organisation and managing logistics in other projects or initiatives."



Head Teacher: Mr D. J. Hardy BA (Hons) PGCE
Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN6 9AF
☎ 01522 882020
✉ enquiries@srpa.co.uk 🌐 www.srpa.co.uk
Company Registration No: 07690250

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

This is an amazing piece of work by kind, thoughtful, social astute and tenacious youngsters. They represent the core of our values and our DNA. I could not be more proud of all of them. In addition, great thanks must go to Miss Addlesee, Mrs Hought and Mrs Burr for their diligence and hard work in supporting our team of youngsters.

Today we will be posting a twitter poll on our account @LincolnSRPA in order to gauge parental thoughts about my letters from September. I am more than happy to continue to write to you each week but, with the Covid focus potentially lessened, I am interested in whether you wish to continue to receive my weekly musings and updates. I look forward to your responses. If you are not a twitter user, please feel free to email us via enquiries@srpa.co.uk to let us know how you feel about this.

As I sign off this week, my quote is from the 19th century Scottish author Samuel Smiles who said "He who never made a mistake, never made a discovery." We live, we learn and will look forward to refining our work and finishing strongly as we approach the end of term.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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

Head Teacher: Mr D. J. Hardy BA (Hons) PGCE
Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN6 9AF
t 01522 882020
✉ enquiries@srpa.co.uk www.srpa.co.uk
Company Registration No: 07690250