



16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19, Examinations consultation for summer 2022, Important school transport information from 19 July 2021, Year 5 Virtual Open Day website, ParentPay deficits, End of Year reporting, Uniform, Twitter poll result

As we approach the end of the final week of term, I have been very impressed by the resilience and good nature of our youngsters in what has been a testing time for them. Our bubbles are slowly returning to full capacity and we hope to see a great end to the summer term in full sunshine. However, it remains really busy as you will see below:

Covid-19

Infection rates of Covid-19 are now the highest across the county they have ever been since the pandemic began. With this in mind, regardless of the government's opening up agenda from 19 July, we will not be loosening anything prior to the summer holidays. This approach aligns with the advice given by Public Health in Lincolnshire and Children's Services at LCC.

For September, testing consent will be sought again for existing students and Mr Adlington will make contact with Year 6 parents in the same vein whose children are coming up to us. I will publish our September testing schedule in due course but it will be more than likely during the holidays and, in any event, from 9 August.

In the meantime, we hold firm and continue unabated.

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.

Examinations consultation for summer 2022

For those affected year groups, I know you are keen to know about the plans for examinations next summer, so I wanted to share a summary of the main proposals that have just been announced by the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual.

The separate consultations for [GCSEs, AS and A-levels](#) and [Vocational, Technical and Other Qualifications \(VTQs\)](#) propose a package of measures to help reduce the impact of disruption to students' education. Here are the main points:

GCSEs, AS and A-levels

- Schools and colleges will be given some choice about the topics or content that students will be assessed on in GCSE English Literature, History, and Geography
- For other subjects, advance information about the focus of examination content will be provided, to help students focus their revision. This will be provided in the spring term – or earlier if the impact of the pandemic worsens
- Students will be given a formulae sheet in GCSE Mathematics and an expanded equations sheet in GCSE Physics and GCSE Combined Science
- There will be changes to the requirements for practical science work and practical art and design assessments.

Vocational, Technical and other general Qualifications (VTQs)

- Any previous adaptations we were told about last year can be carried forward into 2021/2022 without any re-approval process
- For performance table qualifications:
 - All content of the qualifications should be taught.
 - Internal assessments (tasks and any evidence generated by students who weren't able to receive an assessed grade this summer) can be carried forward. New students should complete a new task, where made available
 - For mid-flight learners, a student who has received an assessed grade in either 2020 and 2021 will be able to carry this result forward
 - Streamlining of assessments will be allowed – including reduction in the number of internal assessments/units (mandatory or optional) though this will need to be kept to a minimum
 - Re-takes – up to two re-take opportunities for external assessments will be allowed for Applied Generals. However, results based on assessed grades will not count as a retake opportunity.

Share your views

The DfE and Ofqual are asking for views on their proposals. The consultation for GCSEs, AS and A-levels is open until 11:45pm on 1 August 2021, and the VTQ consultation is open until 11:45pm on 26 July 2021. As usual, we'll be looking at the consultations in detail and responding ourselves.

The DfE and Ofqual will also be announcing contingency plans in the autumn term, in case examinations can't go ahead as planned.



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Important school transport information from 19 July 2021

Taken directly from communication received from School Transport this week:

For the remainder of the summer term the following infection prevention control measures will apply on Council-funded dedicated school transport:

- The additional transport that has been running this year in many areas will still operate.
- Transport will still continue to be cleaned regularly on key touch points and also deep cleaned each night.
- Pupils should continue to socially distance and sit in 'bubbles' on transport wherever possible.
- Although face coverings are no longer a legal requirement on all public transport, we strongly recommend their continued use on school transport for pupils of all ages, where they are able to wear them.
- Each transport operator is able to decide if passengers **MUST** wear a face covering on their services. It is recommended that parents/carers check directly with transport operators for any further rules.

It is expected and strongly recommended that any pupil travelling to school or college on public transport continues to wear a face covering.

Further local guidance on school transport will be provided in advance of the new academic year.

Year 5 Virtual Open Day website

This is now live via the homepage banner on the website. I hope you find it informative.

ParentPay deficits

We have a substantial number of student accounts where money is owed to the Academy and accounts are in deficit. Please be good enough to remedy this prior to the end of term if this affects you.

End of Year reporting

These should be published today for all students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12.



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Uniform

We are making no changes to our uniform policy for September 2021 and advise all parents wishing to purchase new uniform to contact Uniform Direct as soon as possible. The pandemic is having an impact on their delivery times and it may be well into August when orders are received. I do also advise parents/carers to carefully read our uniform policy on the website prior to purchasing any items to ensure that the correct items are sourced. At the time of writing, I intend to revert to full wearing of uniform from September with our changing rooms for PE back in use.

Twitter poll results

There were 53 votes via our Twitter account with regard to whether I should continue to write to you weekly next year. We also asked for email feedback and held another impromptu poll on our Instagram account. Interestingly, the Insta poll was 48% to 52% against me continuing to write but all emails received were positive for this continuing and 75% of all votes on Twitter wanted me to continue to write to you on a weekly basis from September.

Thank you to all who chose to offer a view. In short, I guess you are stuck with me....

I am very grateful for the parents who have taken the time to write to me this week with well wishes, support and praise. It is not what I do the job for but it helps as we approach the end of an academic year which has been like no other and challenges prevail. Despite the regular bouncers and googlies from many angles I remain steadfast and undeterred in my approach to school improvement at SRPA and I will lead this school to be the best it can be in and out of the pandemic. In the words of American novelist Jack Kerouac, "Great things are not accomplished by those who yield to trends and fads and popular opinion."

Have a good weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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