



25 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Covid-19, Year 9 options, Curriculum Bulletin document – Term 4, Parents' evening feedback, Health & Wellbeing Bulletin, Clubs and activities for Term 4, Community Action Group hampers**

Welcome to my first update letter of the new term.

**Covid-19**

In the week where all Covid restrictions were ended, there have been several changes to the way we work as a result. The legal requirement to isolate has been dropped but we still expect students who test positive to remain at home rather than to attend the Academy for five full days, and then continue to follow guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days. Routine testing will also end and is no longer recommended for secondary aged students in a mainstream setting. In fact, I cannot order any more test kits for students and have been blocked from doing so by the DfE.

I do not intend to get into the detail of what I think about all of these changes as this would become the longest letter you have ever received from me but, with common sense and good humour, we will see what the latest version of the 'new normal' means to us.

I have received a few questions about face coverings now restrictions are over. Although not mandatory by any means, I am quite relaxed about staff and students exercising personal choice and continuing to wear them as long as they are worn sensibly in and out of class. There will be times when our corridors are crowded with many youngsters and colleagues so I continue to carry one although I am selective as to when it is worn.

**Year 9 options**

After the In Touch message sent on Wednesday about Year 9 options, we would be grateful to receive formal confirmation from any parents whose child is intending to join the UTC for KS4. Some of the youngsters who we think are moving on have chosen options at SRPA which is skewing our numbers in some groups and makes planning a little more challenging.

Mr Ward has done a super job with his team to gather all of the responses and has begun work on confirming choices or counselling where some changes are needed. He will be in touch in due course to confirm final choices for all students.

## Curriculum Bulletin document – Term 4

After our recent feedback request from parents it was clear that the one area where further work was needed was to keep you better informed of exactly what your child is learning and when. This was excellent feedback and was fair. With this in mind, we have listened and produced the attached Curriculum Bulletin so that, by year group and subject, you will know the focus of your child's learning for this half term. We will publish this every half term for your attention. This will also be published on the website for general viewing too.

## Parents' evening feedback

Parental feedback about the future of parents' evenings has now been received with around 60% preferring to remain online. As a result, we will continue to hold subject parents' evening events online in line with staff voice too. The exceptions to this will be Year 7, 10 and 12 tutor evenings from September and SEND reviews where face to face is necessary or more convenient. I also hope to be able to offer a 'hybrid' for subject evenings where it is felt necessary that a small number of students are invited into the Academy for appointments due to behaviour issues or other concerning events.

## Health & Wellbeing Bulletin

Please also find this attached with my letter.

## Clubs and activities for Term 4

These are now published on the website and can be viewed using this link:  
<https://srpa.co.uk/extra-curricular-clubs-activities/>

I am sure this week has brought out a mixture of emotions across our student, parent and staff bodies - relief that restrictions are at an end, nervousness for the future, happiness that society is opening up as we approach the spring and a little uncertainty about the changes coming. I am reminded of the words of the American aviator Amelia Earhart who once said "The most difficult thing is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity."

Let's hope for a splendid term 4.



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I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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



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

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