



16th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to begin this final letter of the year by thanking you for your support throughout the last few months which have seen huge challenges for all of us. I am very proud of how the academy has risen to the Covid-19 crisis; continuing to provide home learning and school-based education for your children. Throughout the process, the students have been amazing!

Track and Trace:

COVID 19 Track and Trace over the Christmas Holidays

School Contact Number for Confirmed Cases Only: 07719550050

We have been instructed by the DfE to track and trace close contacts of any confirmed cases within our school population. If your child develops symptoms during the 48 hours after the close of school tomorrow (Thursday 17th, Friday 18th December or on Saturday 19th December) and subsequently tests positive, you must inform school at the earliest opportunity on the above number.

Phone lines will be manned between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. every day from Friday, 18th December until Wednesday, 23rd December.

Should a case be confirmed within these timescales, school will implement track and trace for all students and staff who were in close contact. A text message will be sent to the parents / carers of those affected and a letter put on the academy's website. I urge you to check the website daily in case your child's year group has been affected. If your child has been identified as a close contact, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the close of school. This will end of all on 31st December.

Please do not contact school if your child develops symptoms from Sunday, 20th December onwards. Should your child then test positive, national track and trace get in touch with you to determine all close contacts who will need to self-isolate.

Tests can be arranged by using the website www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Please note the times and dates that you can contact the academy if your child develops symptoms or tests positive.

Friday 18th December - 8am-10am
Saturday 19th December - 8am-10am
Sunday 20th December - 8am-10am
Monday 21st December - 8am-10am
Tuesday 22nd December - 8am-10am
Wednesday 23rd December - 8am-10am

Remote Learning:

We will continue to provide work for isolating students via Class Charts and Teams. We are continuing to work hard to catch all our students up after so much lost education, so every day really counts, both for academic reasons and for students' personal mental health and wellbeing. Please continue to support us by encouraging your child to access Class Charts on a regular basis.





Parents' Evenings:

In January 2021, there will be more information released about our plans for remote parents' evenings, where you will gain the chance to discuss your child's progress this term.

Uniform:

Due to our arrangements for the safe return of students, we have noted there has been a decline in the standards of uniform; in particular, the students PE kit. We understand the financial pressures families have been under recently. As such, we have supported families to access some items of uniform. We would appreciate your support in ensuring standards remain high. However, if you are struggling financially, we would encourage you to contact your child's head of year and we will provide additional items required. As noted in the uniform policy, all students should wear black, polishable shoes (apart from their PE day). Again, support is available to assist families with this. Please note that Hooded tops are not allowed in the academy. They are being worn underneath Blazers. All students can wear a coat over their uniform. If your child has PE then they must wear either the SSA PE jumper or their School Blazer over their Kit.

A reminder of contact details for Heads of Year:

- Year 7 – Mr Monk amonk@ssa.bfet.uk
- Year 8 – Mr Walker rwalker@ssa.bfet.uk
- Year 9 – Mr Varley jvarley@ssa.bfet.uk
- Year 10 – Mr Yates dyates@ssa.bfet.uk
- Year 11 – Mrs Hartley ehartley@ssa.bfet.uk

Winter Grant:

SSA has been allocated funding through the government's Covid Winter Grant scheme (WGS) including funding for vulnerable families with children, which may be used to provide support to families in receipt of free school meals. If you feel you are eligible, or have specific reasons to access this grant, please contact your head of year.

For now, then, my very best wishes to all for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Here's to a brighter (Covid- free) 2021! Stay safe!

Enjoy the festive period.

Yours Faithfully

Ruth Coupe

Mrs Ruth Coupe
Executive Principal

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Mr Neil Reynolds
Headteacher

