

7th July 2020

Important Communication from the CEO:

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

As we come to the end of this academic year I wanted to write and thank you all, once again for the support that you continue to give to our academies and Trust.

It has once again, been another very different year for us all and I cannot tell you how proud I am of the children, parents and staff at how quickly we adapted to the changes that had to be implemented, sometimes at short notice. I am so grateful for your patience and understanding during this time, especially if your child has had to isolate at any time due to bubble closures. I also understand your disappointment at not being able to join in the end of year events which usually take place within our academies, I am very much hoping that we will be able to revert back to some form of normality when we return in September and look forward to inviting you back to our events.

We have received some wonderful entries for Exceed has got Talent, which is making it a very difficult decision to choose the overall winners, these will be announced next week. I am also delighted to see how many children and staff took part in the Skipping Challenge, the results will be announced later this week. Well done to everyone who took part.

We have now introduced our Proud Awards, which are presented to pupils throughout the Trust on a weekly basis, you may have seen some of the posts on social media. The children are so excited to receive these as they are awarded for demonstrating excellence in learning, resilience, creativity or teamwork.

Throughout the pandemic, Exceed Learning Partnership has followed Government and local guidance in order to ensure the safety of staff, students and the wider community. Unfortunately, we have received confirmation from our Local Authority and the Director of Public Health that rates of Covid-19 in Doncaster are rising and this has caused disruption to a number of schools (mainly secondary schools) across the borough in the last few weeks.

Director of Public Health Doncaster states:

- Doncaster schools are seeing increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases, linked to the Delta variant. Our local data is clear that rates in children, younger people and young adults are higher.
- As cases increase, we want to make sure we are doing all we can to protect all within our wider community including those not yet vaccinated, and also avoid increasing cases as the end of term approaches.
- We want to take action to reduce disruption to learning across schools from positive cases, to stop people being unwell and to not have high numbers of students/staff having to isolate at the start of the school holidays.

Therefore, it has been recommended that secondary schools in Doncaster review their current stance on face coverings due to the high number of cases that they currently have within their settings, pupils and staff may be asked to consider wearing face coverings in communal areas and classrooms until the end of the academic year.

Within our Trust we will continue to wear face coverings until the 19th July, and request that parents and carers also wear them whilst on school premises when dropping off and collecting your child/ren.

Earlier this week the Prime Minister announced that step four of the roadmap is to take place on 19th July as planned. So that we can reduce the risk of transmission and further protect ourselves and our community please can we remind you of the following information:

Hands, Face, Space.

Covid-19 remains a real concern and we must continue to do all we can to protect ourselves and others. Please remember: Hands. Face. Space.

- **Hands** - wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water often, and as soon as you get home -use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- **Face** - wear a face covering in indoor settings such as restaurants and shops where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- **Space** - stay at least 2 metres away from people when out within your community and at work. If you feel comfortable having contact with close family and friends, please think about the vulnerability of your loved ones and continue to show caution.

Also, a reminder that the rule of six remains in place until 19th July at the earliest for indoor settings, so six people or two families can meet indoors. The guidance reminds us that outdoor meetings are safer and if you are meeting indoors then it is preferable to have windows open to provide suitable ventilation.

Outdoor meetings permit up to 30 people to get together.

Self-isolation

Please remember if anyone tests positive or comes in contact with a positive case of coronavirus they must self-isolate immediately for ten days. This remains vital in breaking the chain of infection.

More information about the financial support for self-isolation is available here:

www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/emergencies/coronavirus-financial-advice

Vaccinations

The vaccination programme is well underway, and everyone aged 18 or over can now book an appointment. If you are eligible, you can book an appointment by visiting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or calling 119. It is also very important that you attend your second vaccination which should be carried out 8-12 weeks after your first.

If you have any questions or concerns about taking the vaccine, please visit the Doncaster Council website for more information. www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/health-wellbeing/vaccinations

Testing

As you are aware twice weekly testing is being carried out by staff members throughout the trust and I understand that many families are also undertaking lateral flow testing themselves. The government and local authorities would like to encourage more families to take part in regular testing to help to reduce the spread of the virus. If you would like to obtain free home testing kits please visit: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>

Academy Organisation for September 2021

This week, after the Secretary of States announcement and updated guidance, I will be updating our academy organisational plans to implement procedures from September. These will be communicated by each academy to you before the end of term and will include:

- Removal of bubbles
- Adjustment of start and finish times
- Onsite organisation – entry and exit routes etc

We would like to ensure that our pupils, continue learning to the end of term, with as little disruption as possible so could I please remind you to continue to adhere to the current government guidelines.

Finally, I would like to say what a great privilege it is, to lead this Trust and to work with our communities. Please remember that there is no limit to what we can achieve and no greater investment that we can make, in the lives of all our children.

I wish you and your family a happy, safe and healthy summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely

B.A. Nixon

Beryce Nixon
CEO and National Leader of Education

John Blount

John Blount
Chair of Directors

