



Exceed Learning Partnership
Edlington Lane
Edlington
Doncaster
DN12 1PL

Telephone: 01709 805175

Fax: 01709 869936

Email: admin@exceedlearningpartnership.com

Website: www.exceedlearningpartnership.co.uk

'Innovative Education – Transforming Lives'

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Update from the CEO

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the government's announcement on the 23rd September, I thought I would write to provide you with a brief update. No directive has been given to schools about closing, and schools will remain open.

Throughout our trust, the academies are tightly following their wider opening risk assessments alongside government guidelines so we can be as safe as we possibly can. I would like to thank parents/carers for all your support in implementing these measures and following the correct times allocated. We are continually trying to improve these so that parents/carers with siblings in different year groups are not having to wait for long periods.

To date we have only had two positive case across the whole of the trust where the bubbles were closed; all regulations and procedures were followed which worked extremely well. I would like to thank parents/carers for their support and understanding during this time.

Dr Rupert Suckling, the Director for Public Health Doncaster has reported that there is no evidence from Test and Trace that pupils or staff are picking up the virus from within a school setting, current evidence is showing that it is passed within communities by those not adhering to government guidance.

From Monday 5th October 2020, to help to reduce the risk of passing on the virus, we will be asking parents/carers to please wear a **face covering whilst on the school premises** during drop off and collection times. Staff members will also be advised to wear a face covering during these periods. This has been implemented in many schools, due to the increased restrictions implemented by the Government.

Parents/carers are also reminded of the following:

- only one person should escort their child to and from the academy to reduce numbers on academy premises
- parents/carers are asked not to congregate around the school gates/entrances or on the outside footpaths after drop off or pick up times
- parents should contact the academy by email or phone to communicate any information and not attend the academy office
- Parents/carers should arrive at the academy at the allocated time slot

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this time, and I am sure that you will continue to support our academies and others by continuing to stay safe and follow the government guidance listed below:

- Wash hands regularly
- Cover face – use a face covering
- Make space – stay at least 2 metres apart or 1 metre with face covering
- Meet in groups of 6 or less and follow social distancing rules when you meet up
- Limit the number of different people you see socially over a short period of time
- Meet outdoors where practical as this is safer than meeting indoors.

Exceed Remote Learning development

We are currently putting in place a new remote learning platform called 'Seesaw' This is an app which can be used on laptops, smartphones, tablets etc. This app will be used for all weekly home learning and for remote learning, if bubbles have to close or pupils are self-isolating due to symptoms. The app allows teachers to upload learning and for pupils to respond to this in different ways such as photographs, video, writing and drawing. The teachers can then provide feedback to the pupils.

I have been using this with my own daughter and it is really easy and accessible in order to support pupil independence. She also likes receiving the feedback from her teacher. The academies will send out all information about how to download the app with the information to reach your child's account. We have implemented this platform, rather than use the class blogs in order to support the learning of the pupils. We can also personalise this learning to your child's needs based on the diagnostics we have been undertaking within our academies. This should provide more effective next steps for learning.

Finally, I would like to share with you the positive outcomes of our return to school. I visited all the academies last week and your children were so settled and enjoying their learning. Teachers have implemented fantastic learning environments and have taken a huge amount of time to provide safe spaces for your children in order to build their confidence. I had the huge privilege, to safely discuss learning with some pupils. They told me they liked to have lunch with smaller numbers of pupils as this was much quieter. They liked having playground equipment and they discussed with me the many lessons they had really enjoyed. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and excitement for being back in the academy.

Yours sincerely

B.A. Nixon

Beryce Nixon
CEO
National Leader of Education

