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17th May 2021

'Innovative Education – Transforming Lives'

Important Communication from the CEO:

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well? From today we see further restrictions being lifted as we move into Step 3 of the Roadmap out of Lockdown. However, as per the Prime Ministers announcement on Friday, it is still crucial that we all adhere to the government guidance and the restrictions that remain in place. With the increased spread throughout the country of the new Indian variant, we must continue to follow the guidance and not do anything that would undo all the work we have done so far.

Public Health Information –14th May

For the period 1st May – 7th May the infection rate across Doncaster continues to fall, all be it slowly. It is currently 47.5 per 100,000, compared to the previous week's figure of 62.8 per 100,000. Whilst the numbers are slowly going in the right direction, Dr Rupert Suckling reports that throughout Doncaster we seeing some rising numbers in certain age groups, particularly those aged 10-14 and 20-24, which is of concern and a timely reminder that we haven't got to the end of the line just yet.

Important Procedures to Follow:

If your child or anyone within your household or support bubble displays any of the following symptoms they **MUST undertake a PCR test and self-isolate** until the result has been confirmed.

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

As LFT's are readily available for anyone to undertake a test at home, I must stress that if you check your child or yourself using a LFT **whilst displaying symptoms** they **MUST** arrange to have a PCR test, even if the LFT test has reported a negative result. Everyone in the household must then self-isolate until the test result is known. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and could pass the virus onto others.

Weekly testing of Employees:

Our employees throughout the Trust continue to undertake twice weekly lateral flow testing and I can confirm that selected employees from academies/schools within the Trust are now taking part in a quality assurance dual testing exercise which involves employees undertaking PCR tests in addition to the lateral flow test. This will provide essential data to the NHS Test and Trace Education Mass Testing Program and most importantly will help in the reduction of Covid 19 transmission.

Bubble Closures

We have had a number of bubbles close throughout the Trust since we returned back on Monday 12th April, which continue to show that we still have to remain careful. Thank you all parents/carers for your patience and understanding during these closures.

Whilst the restrictions are easing from today, I would like to request that parents/carers continue to follow the procedures that we have put in place when dropping off and collecting your child/ren from school, we really do appreciate your support with this.

- only one person (if possible) should escort their child to and from the academy/school to reduce numbers on academy/school premises
- parents/carers are asked not to congregate around the academy /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
- The wearing of face coverings on academy/school premises

From today, Monday 17th May:

- Outdoor gatherings will be limited to 30 people
- Indoor gatherings limited to a group of 6 people or 2 households (each household can include existing support bubbles, if eligible)
- Exercise caution and consider the guidance on risks associated with COVID 19 and actions you can take to help keep you and your loved ones safe.

For more information on how the rules will change visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

Finally, I would once again like to thank you for your support over the past year, it has been, at times, very challenging. Over the coming months, we can hopefully start to return to some form of normality, however please remember to follow the guidance to keep yourselves, families and communities safe.

Yours sincerely,

B.A Nixon

Mrs B.A Nixon
CEO



Mr John Blount
Chair of Directors Board