



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/KRParLet/2020-21/2ndweek/jsn

18th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of the second week, I remain pleased with the start that we have made and the way our staff and pupils are responding to the many challenges that the current context has presented.

We have this week needed to manage a small number of staff absences due to the necessity of isolating when family members have presented symptoms and as you will be aware, access to a COVID test is extremely limited at this time. We have so far been able to manage this within our resources and disruption has been to a minimum. It has however, highlighted the need for further contingency planning to reflect on what would happen under a number of different circumstances.

Our first commitment is that we remain open as long as it remains safe to do so. If we find ourselves with higher than normal levels of staff absence at any stage, then as always we will make arrangements to cover them, internally wherever possible. We may on occasions find it necessary to put alternative arrangements in place, such as combining two classes within the same year group for a larger lesson presented in the school hall. If we do at any stage find ourselves in a position where we are unable to cover a lesson, then as a last resort, we will suspend the individual lesson and set the students some independent work to complete under supervision. We will always ensure that the students are safe and that they are supervised and we will be flexible in our approach to help ensure we maintain our curriculum offer.

Ultimately, we will do everything we can to ensure the school remains open for all year groups, but please understand that under exceptional circumstances, we will need to adopt a flexible approach to enable this to happen. If we do find ourselves at any stage back in a lockdown situation / school closure then we will very quickly reinstate our zoom lessons and online platforms to ensure that there is some continuity of their learning.

I remain optimistic that this will not be necessary, but wanted to give you an assurance in advance that we have considered our contingency plans to respond to all eventualities.

In terms of student absence, we have noticed an increase in students with colds and sniffles. I ask that you remain vigilant in monitoring the symptoms of your child, if they are unwell to the point that you would usually keep them off, then please keep them off. Otherwise, please be alert to the symptoms of COVID and if you feel they are presenting any of those symptoms then seek further advice around isolating them and if appropriate, access a test.

Likewise, the same applies if anyone within your household is displaying symptoms, please be vigilant and do not send your child to school until you know it is safe to do so.

As we continue to settle in to the start of the school year, form-tutors will be making a welcome call to you to discuss how your child is doing. Please be patient with us as this may take a few weeks to complete, however of course, if you have anything that is more urgent, please contact us and request that the tutor or the head of year gives you a call.

I am pleased to see so many of our students starting to engage in some of the additional enrichment activities that we have in place, please encourage your child to participate in something and engage in the wider aspects of school life.

I would like to say thank you again, for the patience and support you have shown us in getting back to school. We will continue to work hard to respond to the challenges that we are facing and do all we can to help ensure your child is making good progress. I have asked our teachers to ensure all students, in all lessons are receiving some homework each week. Please support us by checking your child's planner and ensuring they take the time needed to complete this. It is an important aspect of their education and in particular given the time we have missed this year it is of even greater importance than usual.

Please take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Rowlands
Headteacher