



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/KRParLet/update/jsn

28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to keep you informed in relation to the current impact of COVID-19 on school life.

You will be aware that prior to Easter, we had a small number of positive cases in school which led to the necessity for some students and staff to isolate.

Unfortunately, a couple of staff members then tested positive during Easter one of which continues to suffer the effects at this stage. Since returning, we have still had a small number of isolated cases testing positive and as a result, this has led to the necessity for some students and staff to have to isolate.

This means that during this period, we are having to respond to a high level of staff absence and as a result, make some use of external cover to allow lessons to continue. Where we are able to, we have had teachers delivering some lessons via a video call with supervision in the classroom to help students engage and to support their learning. Throughout the pandemic, we have been lucky in that for the most part, the impact has been minimal however I guess it was inevitable that at some stage we would have to respond to an increase in absence.

I would like to say that your sons and daughters have responded magnificently and you should be very proud of them. They have demonstrated incredible resilience, maturity and remained committed to their learning, despite the challenges and disruptions that they have faced. I am confident that we are coping well to keep any disruption to a minimum and I believe that the increased absence is a short-term challenge.

I would like to thank you and our students for your patience and understanding and I am confident that with their positive approach in the classroom, they continue to make good progress in school.

I would appreciate it if you could remind your child that it is still important to follow guidelines for social distancing and take every precaution possible. This helps to minimise the risk of spreading the virus and as a result, minimise the impact of any disruptions to their school life.

Overall, I am really pleased with the response of our students throughout this difficult period and as we start to transition back to 'normality' we are really keen to support our students and allow them to engage in a wide range of activities.

We are already running after school sessions in sport and D&T and it is fabulous to see so many students staying behind and getting involved. We have now communicated plans for Y7 and Y8 to attend Normanby Camp and we will continue to put things back in place as and when we are able.

This also applies to how we keep you informed of the progress of your child and we recognise that over the past twelve months, we have not been able to meet with you as we traditionally would. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity to do so in the near future. In the meantime, I would encourage you to ask to see your child's books and enquire as to how they are performing in their assessments etc. Your support at home makes a huge difference in terms of engagement and motivation and allows us to work together to ensure that they are accountable for the work that they produce.

Finally, in the summer term, we are able to open the school field to provide our students with more space and a pleasant environment to sit and relax, or play games in. One consequence of this however is that it makes it more difficult for us to monitor the use of mobile phones and as a result, I am conscious that we have seen an increase in the number of students attempting to do so. Please remind your child that mobile phones are not to be used in school and that they should be switched off and out of sight. If a student needs to contact home, they can do so by contacting the office and 'checking the time' is not an acceptable reason to be looking at their phone. Please remind them that if a phone is confiscated, it will be placed in the office safe and will only be returned when collected by a parent, we will not negotiate with students to give them their phone back.

Thank you as ever for your support, it is greatly appreciated during what has been a very challenging year for everyone.

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