



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/parlet2020-21/returnupdate/jsn

9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying thank you for your support and understanding this week. As you will be aware, we experienced a rapid and significant increase in the number of positive test results across all year groups and therefore took the decision to transfer to online learning.

Whilst this is not ideal, and we recognise the challenges that it can create, I am satisfied that it was the right decision in this moment to reduce the spread of infection and to keep the community safe. Our students have again engaged well with their online learning and I am proud of the way they have responded.

I have been in contact with Public Health, Lincolnshire and looking ahead to next week, students will return to school on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 8:50am as normal.

To allow this to happen, it is strongly recommended that all students complete a lateral flow test at home on Monday evening. If the test is positive, then you must remain in isolation and make arrangements for a PCR test. Please notify us if this is the case.

When students return on Tuesday morning, we will commence with a program of on-site testing. As we have already sort consent for on-site testing, there will be no need to do this again.

If your child is continuing to isolate due to being a close contact of someone with COVID or if they have COVID themselves, or is absent from school due to illness, please contact the school reception on Tuesday morning by 9.00am at the latest.

If your child does not have consent to complete a test, then we will at this stage look at alternative arrangements for their educational provision. This will mean working independently in a designated area of the school under supervision.

If you have not previously provided us with consent but now wish to do so, please contact reception.

Whilst we want school to operate as close to normality as possible, it is necessary to take some precautions to ensure that we manage the current risks.

Therefore, we will ask that facemasks are worn during transition times, when students are moving around the building. Facemasks do not have to be worn in the classroom however they can be if that is your personal choice.

Facemasks will still need to be worn on all forms of school transport.

I politely request that you speak to your child and remind them of the importance of following all guidance and advice to keep themselves safe. I appreciate that for young people, maintaining social distance is unnatural however, it is important that they adhere to the guidelines. This includes frequent sanitisation and washing of hands and ensuring that they follow instructions in school such as keeping to their designated areas and toilet blocks, following the one-way system and ensuring that they have all of their own equipment.

Workstations and school equipment continue to be cleaned between use; however, the responsibility lies with all of us to keep the school environment as safe as possible.

The guidance from Public Health Lincolnshire was also to reiterate the importance of vaccination for those who are eligible.

I believe that we are doing all that we can to ensure that the school is safe, whilst allowing us to remain operational and provide our young people with the education, care and support that they need.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Kind regards,

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

Mr K Rowlands  
Headteacher