Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: O/KR ParLet/21-22/testing/kv 1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a pleasant and enjoyable summer, we are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to school next week and of course, I would of course like to extend a warm welcome to the new cohort of Y7 students and their families.

As you may be aware, whilst many of the restrictions for COVID have eased nationally, the risk remains very much apparent and the government guidance for schools remains clear. Schools have been advised to test students twice ahead of their return to school and we further advise that a twice weekly regime of home testing continues throughout September. Government guidance will be updated at this time.

Within school, we will continue to exercise caution and some of the measures that we have had in place prior to the summer term will remain so. This includes keeping windows open to ventilate classrooms, sanitisation stations at the classroom doors, a one-way system, designated toilet blocks and designated areas for students at break and lunch.

At this time, facemasks are optional on the corridors and in the classroom. Having spoken to North Lincs Council this morning, they have advised that students should where a mask on school transport, where possible.

Please be reminded that coats are not permitted inside the school building. If the temperature is a little cool, we encourage that students wear a base layer under their uniform instead. It is important that students bring the equipment to school that they need as they should not be sharing or borrowing this.

We also encourage that students bring a suitable water bottle that they can refill, for their own personal use. Remaining hydrated is important for health and supports concentration, but we ask that students only refill their bottle during break or lunchtime.

With further regards to testing, we need the support of all parents to help ensure that the school remains a safe environment for staff and children to attend. Testing is advised at present, and we politely ask that you respect this request and support us by allowing tests to be completed in school, and by maintaining the use of the home testing kits provided.

In the event that the risk of COVID-19 increases, for example through identified cases in school or, if locally the infection rate increases, then we reserve the right to escalate our contingency plans and put in place limited or alternative access and provision for any student who does not have consent to test.

We want to start the school with as close to our normal operating procedures as possible. Students will be transitioning around school to attend their lessons and they will be seated according to the seating plan set by the teacher. All subject areas will be delivering their normal curriculum content.

There will be no online provision available and all students are expected to attend school as normal.

Should you have any concerns relating to the specific needs of your child, please contact their head of year to discuss how we can support this.

We are looking forwards to a successful year ahead and would like to thank you in advance for your support in keeping our school environment safe.

Kind regards

Mr Rowlands

Headteacher