



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: I/ParLet/21-22/covid/kv

6th October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to provide you with a further update in regard to COVID-19.

We are still experiencing a significantly higher infection rate than the national average and as you will know, as a result we agreed to allow the NHS mobile testing vehicles to attend school on Monday 4th October.

I have recently engaged in a strategy meeting with Public Health to review our position in school and consider how we can help to reduce the number of infections within our school community.

Public Health are assured that the measures we have in place are appropriate and they are supportive of our efforts to manage the infection rate, whilst trying to sustain the educational provision of our students.

On their recommendations, I would like to reiterate the importance of all families completing tests on a daily basis. Equally, if your child has any symptoms, however mild, you should keep them off school and book a PCR test. Only if all of our families commit to doing this, will we be successful in bringing the infection rate under control.

It is also a clear recommendation from Public Health England that the wearing of face masks around school, during transition should be mandatory. We therefore ask that all students wear face masks when walking around the school building.

We also request that you ask your child to ensure that they sanitise their hands frequently and that they follow social distancing measures as best they can within the school environment.

We are still managing the school canteen environment to reduce the possibility of contact between students from different bubbles, and different year groups. As the weather has become more unsettled, those students bringing packed lunches will be able to eat them inside their own tutor room. We expect them to take responsibility for ensuring that they dispose of their rubbish appropriately or that they take it home with them as we do not want classroom bins to become full of food waste.

All other restrictions remain in place, such as asking students to ensure that they have the correct equipment and that they do not share with others.

It requires a collective effort to try and bring infection rates under control and it is necessary that everyone plays their part if we are to avoid the introduction of further restrictions.

Equally, the impact of the high infection rate is also affecting our staffing levels whereby a small number of staff have tested positive and have therefore been required to stay off.

Our students have responded with great maturity and understanding and I am hugely proud of the way they have conducted themselves when they have had to be taught by someone other than their usual teacher.

I am also hugely grateful to all of the staff in the school for the way that they have supported one another and our students by picking up additional lessons and doing whatever is necessary to help ensure the school remains operational.

With half-term only a couple of weeks away, it is anticipated that we can reduce the infection rate before then, and then with a break from school we will see it reduce even further. We hope therefore, that we will be able to remove the necessity of bubbles by the time that we return in November.

In the meantime, thank you for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

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

Mr Rowlands