

26th November 2021

Letter to all FCAT parents from Sean Bullen (DOE) regarding the continuing importance of supporting all our Academies in the current climate.

Dear Parent/Carer,

May I take this opportunity to continue to thank you for all your support this term. In many ways School life has returned to some semblance of normality, however, given the national picture, parents and carers will appreciate that our Headteachers are continuing to deal with a significant number of issues that are Covid related.

Firstly, there is Covid itself, which is sadly still with us and may well be for a considerable time. In our secondary settings please could families continue to ensure your children test twice-weekly with lateral flow devices, which the school is more than happy to provide. All the staff are doing this, so we ask that you support the school - firstly by twice weekly testing and then by following government guidance when a lateral flow test is positive. We would also ask you to err on the side of caution where your child is showing minor possible symptoms of Covid such as diarrhea, bad headaches or flu like symptoms. As stated, the school will provide LFTs whenever you need them to support you with your child's health. **In addition, please wear a mask if you visit the school.** Should it be necessary, we trust the you find the link below useful; this link will allow parents and carers to book a vaccination for children 12+

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Secondly, the Secondary settings have supported the rollout of the vaccination programme. This decision is entirely down to you and your child, but if you are interested in vaccination, and missed the recent programme, then please utilise the NHS services to access this facility.

Our Headteachers are trying every strategy to provide the best education they can, but sometimes staff have had to be absent due to Covid and also other illnesses that have become more common as Covid restrictions have been eased nationally. Our Headteachers are working within government guidelines, but there have been more colleagues absent for a variety of reasons and we ask for your understanding at this time.

Each of our Academies has individual circumstances, which mean that they may be introducing different measures at different times, depending upon the localised needs within each school setting. I am grateful to the individual Headteachers, who as appropriate to circumstances, will be communicating with you what these measures are, but as before, the situation is an ever-changing, quickly moving picture. Headteachers have to balance educational aims with health and safety requirements, whilst at the same time being mindful of the need to keep staff and students safe as we approach the Christmas holidays.

This term is always busy anyway, and I wish to publicly thank all of FCAT's staff. We hope to continue to have a 'normal' run up to Christmas but there may need to be further measures that are communicated to you. We will continue to work closely with all our Parents/Carers and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours in partnership,

Sean M. Bullen

FCAT Director of Education

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