



16th July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well and that you are continuing to manage in these very challenging times. As you will know, the government has decided to relax COVID-19 restrictions from Monday 19th July. The timing of this for schools is unfortunate, presenting a change just before schools break for summer, and places us in a very invidious position. We are keen to be as supportive as possible for all our children, their parents and families, whilst continuing to protect the wider local community wherever possible.

We have worked hard to introduce robust precautions to limit the spread of the virus, which have worked well and helped to keep our young people and staff safe. We have, therefore, decided that our schools should keep these existing procedures in place until the end of the summer term.

Whilst we understand we have the leeway to relax our safety measures, we feel it is extremely unwise, given the recent increase in positive cases and the close proximity of the school holidays. We take our duty of care to both students and staff extremely seriously and have not taken this decision lightly. The government recognises that there is no perfect time to relax existing restrictions and in moving to Step 4 from the chosen date, had attempted to coincide with the end of school term. Most of our schools continue a little past this date and to revert to other systems would, we believe, have the potential to lead to a further rise in cases and cause undue disruption and stress at the start of the holiday period.

We ask that you do not send your child to school should they have symptoms and inform the school immediately should your child test positive. We will need to continue to contact trace and inform parents/carers of the need to keep their child at home where they are a close contact or part of a bubble with a positive case. We recognise that we do not have any jurisdiction beyond school, but for the rest of this term, we will continue to advise students of the need to self-isolate and we will not permit access to school. We will of course provide remote education for students who are absent as we have done throughout the pandemic.

We realise that this stance may not be popular with all parents, but we endeavour to look after our people as best we can. It is in line with the Local Authority's approach and their advice to schools, and we continue to keep in close contact with them. We ask for your patience and support in these last few days of the school year.

We are all hopeful that we will be able to move forward more positively in planning for September, whilst remaining mindful that things may change over the coming weeks as we respond to the local context and the government guidance should this be updated.

Should you have concerns, please contact your child's school, but do recognise that this decision is a MAT-wide decision and whilst Headteachers will do what they can to support you and accommodate or consider requests, they may not be able to deliver answers to everyone's satisfaction in all cases.

I hope that you and your families stay safe and well and enjoy a fantastic summer holiday when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Omega Multi-Academy Trust.



ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL



Westbrook Old Hall
PRIMARY SCHOOL