18th December 2020

**Update on COVID-19 testing and the staggered start in January.**

Dear Parents and Carers

By now I am sure that most of you have heard the news about secondary schools carrying out rapid testing for students and staff and the staggered start for students in January.

I would like to reassure parents that while the news came very late for schools we will be working hard to ensure that the school is safe and that any testing is carried out safely and in line with government training and guidance. More details about the testing will follow as we receive it.

With regards the staggered start in January the details for this are as follows:

1. Learning will be delivered online for the first week in January (Week Beginning Monday January 4th) with lessons available from the Tuesday 5th. This is because Monday January 4th is a training day.
2. The only students who have the option to attend school in person from Tuesday 5th January are those who are from key worker families or those who are considered vulnerable.
3. If your child is in one of the above categories **please book their place by email: jo.hedges@lecacademy.org so we can staff accordingly. Bookings should be made no later than 2pm on Monday 4th January 2021.**
4. Guidance for accessing online work will be emailed home and all teachers and support staff will be in school working from Tuesday 5th January. **IMPORTANT:** **Students or parents email subject teachers directly with any subject-specific questions from Tuesday 5th onwards. All staff emails can be found on our website. Students should also have access to their emails throughout the school day so they do not miss important information.**
5. Students will return to school from Week Beginning Monday 11th January (Week 2). Further guidance on the logistics of this will follow in early January once further government guidance has been issued.
6. For student testing, we will require consent from all parents. A letter will be issued via email for you to reply to in due course.

Again, please be assured that I will communicate more information as soon as we have it. In the meantime please do not worry, enjoy the Christmas festivities and I will write to you again in the New Year.

Scott Gaskins

Principal, LECA