

22nd March 2021

Easter letter to all FCAT parents from Sean Bullen (DOE).

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to all of you for your support of the work at all our schools. As you are more than aware, for most of our students we had Remote Learning from 5th January. In addition we had around 30% of students in our schools, who are classed as Key Worker or vulnerable students.

We then began to reopen fully in the week beginning 8 March. Thanks for all your efforts since the New Year. It has been hard work - but made easier by your help and support. All our schools have shown a great sense of community, with students, parents and staff working together very well.

Our primary settings have returned to their bubbles, and in our secondaries we have had the added issue of Lateral Flow Testing. Across our secondaries approaching 10,000 Covid tests have been carried out, which has helped the students understand how to test at home. Well done to everyone involved for this massive undertaking.

We have been delighted to have students back in classrooms. This has helped with their thirst for knowledge, but also with their wellbeing. I am sure the phrases 'Great to be back sir' or 'Good to see you Miss' have echoed around the corridors of FCAT schools and other schools on the coast. At FCAT we are constantly reviewing our risk assessments and will wait for further guidance.

On a practical level where a pupil develops symptoms on Saturday 27th or Sunday 28th March, please use the FCAT e mail address below. If symptoms develop on Monday 29th March and before the return on 12th April you do not need to contact the school and should use the 'normal' national NHS track and trace system. The email will be checked daily over that first weekend.

To make sure cases are dealt with as efficiently as possible please include the following details in your email:

Contact name and telephone number
Name of school attended
Student name and form group
Date of onset of symptoms
Date covid test taken and date of positive result.

If further details are required a member of the school staff will be in contact with you.

The e mail address to be used over the first weekend is:

Covidtracing@fcats.org.uk

Whilst at Aspire on Tuesday their Easter Bunny delivered me a little chocolate treat and it made me think that Easter like Christmas is a time for kindness and giving. There are increasing reasons to be optimistic. The vaccination programme is going well, and we all fervently hope that we can return to some kind of normality, perhaps after Easter, but certainly by the Summer.

Keep the faith for a little while longer.

In partnership

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean M. Bullen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and 'B'.

FCAT Director of Education