

# Queen Elizabeth High School



Ref: MF/LB

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to echo the sentiments that Mr Seneque has written about in his letter to you all. We know the last 2 years now have not been easy for anyone and everyone has had to deal with the issues thrown up with regards their own jobs and family commitments. It is true I feel that schools have been badly affected, the nature of this pandemic has seen a period of inconsistency and never being able to “get going” and keep momentum. As a body of parents, you have always shown strong support for the school and staff, and I thank you for that. I do want to ask of you that this continues into the new year, there have been a couple of instances of difficult parental conduct when dealing with school this term that have placed staff in difficult positions. As a school we respond quickly to difficult issues, but I would ask that parents communicate with school staff in such a way that enables them to resolve any issues swiftly and cordially, and in so doing our excellent relationship with parents can be used to best effect. It is important to me that as a school we are open and work with parents and I am pleased that in conversations with parents you appreciate the open lines of communication, so we very much appreciate it when what I hope is a respectful approach by my staff is reflected in the way that parents deal with them.

Please consider carefully the dates and times Mr Seneque has set out in his letter with regards the return to school in January and make every effort to stick to them as this will aid a swift return to school for all children. In planning the return, we have tried to ensure that as little time is lost as possible. You should also note that as a school we want to be fully open. Press speculation about possible school closures is not helpful but as a school we will open whenever we are required to do so unless it is physically impossible for us. In reality that means that we have the staff available to fulfil our safeguarding commitments, any closure would be because that would not be possible due to staff absence, but our intention is to always be open as planned.

We are not expecting anything other than a normal opening in January and hopefully lower cases. We envisage keeping the mask requirement in class until Friday January 7<sup>th</sup> when we are able to determine the extent of any fresh cases. All being well, immediately after that date we can relax the requirement to wear them within the classrooms, however it is the case we will need to follow national guidance and so a definitive way forward on masks and any other restrictions will be given when we return after the break. Additionally, the current Risk Assessments will be updated in time for our return if/when we have more information on any change to restrictions.

The consultation period for the MAT proposals has come to an end and the results of that consultation shared with the governing bodies. Where views were expressed, they were wholly positive as to the plans to widen our current Singla Academy Trust (QEHC Academy Trust) to include both Bredenbury Primary School and St. Peter’s Primary School under the newly named Three Counties Academy Trust. Where parents asked questions, these were answered fully. There were no requests for a public

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meeting and given the issues surrounding Covid we therefore did not organise one. The recommendation following the consultation is to proceed to the next stage and lodge the relevant applications which we now believe will take place in February so I will update you further around half-term on that matter.

I would like to close this letter by thanking Mr Seneque and the Senior Team, staff and pupils for their hard work this term, the Autumn Term is always long and hard in the best of years, this year of course could not be described as that but everyone has kept going despite significant disruption and so staff and pupils are very deserving of a break, time with families and a chance to recharge ready for the fresh challenges next year will no doubt bring. Have a Merry Christmas everyone and let's hope for a far better 2022.

Mr M Farmer  
Executive Headteacher