



18th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I would firstly like to thank you for your continued cooperation and for working with the Academy to support your child's education and to ensure the Academy can reopen safely and successfully. We have had a very settled and focused start to the school year and our students should be very proud of themselves for adapting to so many changes so quickly. We know that from time to time, in the current climate, we may need to deal with suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the Academy community, but our safety measures have so far stood up well to the spread of the virus in Mansfield. Please rest assured that we will continue to follow all government guidelines and work with Public Health England as the need arises and we will be in touch with families individually should there be anything they need to be made aware of.

On a slightly different note, I am also writing to you regarding plans for your child's continued education should the need arise for them to learn at home again, e.g. due to self-isolation or local lockdown. There is no cause for alarm here, we simply want to be as prepared as possible, just in case.

In the event of us needing to close the Academy to all students, all remote learning and lessons will take place using Office 365 which is available to all our students free of charge. All students will be provided with a remote learning guide which is also available on our website <https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/student-information/remote-learning-guide>. This, along with some basic training that we are delivering to all students, will help them to set up and access the relevant software that they will need and highlight any issues.

To ensure students continue to receive a high-quality education outside of the Academy, students' attendance and their engagement with remote learning will be monitored and we may contact you to discuss any concerns. Remote learning arrangements are in place to ensure that all students have access to education and so that they do not fall behind their peers and struggle with lesson content when they return to the Academy.

The Academy understands that each family's circumstances and access to learning material for their children will differ, and the responsibility to provide educational support at home can be difficult for many families. It is, however, important that students remain engaged in education, even when they are not attending the Academy site. We ask all parents to make every effort to ensure that their child has access to and completes any learning material provided. If, for any reason, you or your child experience difficulties with any remote learning arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone to discuss further or by email to enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk. If your child is unwell and is unable to attend remote learning sessions, please inform our attendance team as you usually would.

Below are a few tips for supporting your child while they learn from home:

- Keep to a routine as much as possible so your child knows what to expect.
- Keep active – ensure your child is getting enough exercise and incorporate this into their daily routine.
- Use different methods to assist learning, e.g. online programmes and documentaries.
- Make sure they have a suitable location to complete their learning.
- If video is used make sure it is against a suitable background and that suitable clothing is worn.

If you do have any concerns regarding the safety of your child or that of another child, please report this to the Academy using our dedicated email address safeguarding@tscacademy.org.uk or by calling us on the number below and asking to speak with a member of the safeguarding team.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support in these strange and testing times for us all.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal