

TLA / GPA

16th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Coronavirus (Covid-19) Roadmap – Guidance for Education Settings
from Monday 19th July 2021**

Further to the government's announcement on Monday 12th July, in which the Prime Minister confirmed that the country will move to Step 4 of the roadmap on Monday 19th July, I am writing to provide you with additional details of how we will approach the last week of the Summer Term here at Alec Hunter Academy.

It has become very apparent, over the course of the pandemic, that there are many differing views within our school community relating to Covid-19, but our overriding priority is to keep students and staff in school and to keep our school community as safe as possible.

This stance is shared by the Saffron Academy Trust and the Trust is keen to maintain the existing measures and controls, which are familiar to students and staff, for the final week of term. Moreover, the revised Department for Education guidance states "*If your school is still open at Step 4, you may wish to continue with these measures until the end of your summer term.*" As well as providing reassurance to the school community, I am not minded to make significant changes to our arrangements in the last week of term which could lead to students, and staff, feeling anxious or unsettled, as well as increasing risk.

Therefore, I can confirm the following, which is in line with all other Saffron Academy Trust secondary schools:

- Students and staff are not required to wear face coverings in classrooms, however they are permitted to be worn as a matter of personal choice.
- Students, staff and visitors (unless exempt) should continue to wear a face covering in all communal areas of the school, including corridors. The DfE guidance states "*From 19 July, the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.*" This would include corridors and communal areas where different year groups are coming into contact.
- The staggered start and end times of the school day will remain in place for the final week of term, along with year group bubbles and staggered break and lunchtimes.
- Social distancing is strongly encouraged.
- Hand sanitiser will continue to be made available for use by students and staff.
- Enhanced cleaning regimes will remain in place.
- The school building will be kept well ventilated.

As you are aware, we have had a number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the past two weeks. What has become very clear from these instances, is the general effectiveness of lateral flow tests in identifying positive cases and we are very grateful to all those students, and staff, who are undertaking regular testing. I would also like to extend my thanks to those students, and their parents/carers, who have assisted us with close contact tracing through open, honest communication and understanding.

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As a school we continue to remain reliant on students acknowledging when they have symptoms and the vigilance of parents/carers. It is very important that a PCR test is arranged if there is any suspicion that a student, or household member, may have Covid-19. Our recent discussions with those who have tested positive have brought to light additional symptoms, which are as follows:

- Headache
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Hayfever-like symptoms
- Tiredness, aches and pains

Should a student, or a member of their household, display symptoms then it is important that they self-isolate immediately, arrange a PCR test and continue to self-isolate until the results of the PCR test are known.

Whilst we continue to have in place a series of measures and controls at school, the Prime Minister has also stated that it is vital to proceed with “caution”, warning “this pandemic is not over”. Therefore, we urge our school community to act on this advice and limit social contact whilst rates of infection are rapidly increasing within the local community. I am acutely aware that parents/carers and staff have made holiday arrangements and planned events during the school holiday and therefore believe that, collectively, we should do all that we can to protect one another so that we can enjoy the remainder of term and the holidays that follow without the need to self-isolate. The efforts we are making in school to protect everyone can only be effective if they are matched by similarly considerate and sensible approaches outside school, so I will be hugely grateful for your support in achieving this objective.

A further communication will be issued in due course regarding the arrangements for the Autumn Term, which will include timings of the school day, testing arrangements prior to the start of term and any other information and guidance that needs to be shared with our school community.

In the meantime, I should like to thank you once again for your continued support and understanding during what has been a very challenging academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T. Lawn
Headteacher