



11 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update COVID-19 and school procedures

I am writing to give you an update on our school procedures in response to the impact of COVID-19 as we come to the end of this half term and a third national lockdown. Over the last six weeks we have significantly improved our remote learning and I know from the many emails of thanks from parents and carers this has been very much appreciated. From the outset of this lockdown we provided supermarket vouchers for those pupils and their families who are eligible, and we transferred to the national voucher scheme as it was reintroduced a few weeks ago. The most recent guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) states:

"This arrangement will continue after the half-term holiday up to Friday 5 March. For schools using the national voucher scheme, Edenred are contacting schools directly this week to confirm when orders can be placed after the holiday period."

I feel it is important to acknowledge that this has been a challenging half-term for all parents, carers, pupils, students and members of staff but we have made it a successful one and we should be proud of our achievements. I appreciate not everything has run as smoothly as possible as changes needed to be made and we had to respond to the new arrangements of a different national lockdown but the overwhelming response so far has been positive – I wish to thank you for your continued support. As we close for the half-term break, I am not aware of any guidance for the reopening of school on 8 March 2021 but as soon as I do, I will share this information and our response to the guidance.

1. Assessment and Reports

I wrote last week about how problematic assessment and reporting is in response to remote learning in the context of national lockdown restrictions and how we are reviewing how best to do this in as fair a way as possible.

As the Year 9 Option process has started in school, we are publishing a report for Year 9 pupils which will be their Performance Indicator (PI) and Attitude to Learning (AtL) grade from last term; class teachers are to review outcomes from this half term based on work completed, marked and standardised across the subjects. Therefore, the PI and AtL outcome will include the assessment of work from this last half-term but no grade is to be recorded lower than that achieved at the end of last term. The rationale for this approach is that we want to acknowledge where pupils have achieved more, so grades may go up but we do not want to further penalise pupils who have struggled to access or complete work either on Microsoft Teams or through the paper packs due to the challenges of living with COVID-19. Therefore, no grade from last term should go down. The regular checks on pupil welfare and monitoring of engagement in work set, by class teachers, Form Tutors, Assistant Year Leaders and Year Leaders, is the system to identify any need for support. We hope this approach is supportive and helps to inform pupils' option choices.

2. Remote Learning

We are pleased to announce that Titus Salt School has received National Online Safety Safe Remote Education Accreditation for its successful approach towards safeguarding children and supporting pupil wellbeing during remote teaching and learning. In addition to the remote learning systems we have put in place, several members of staff had to complete a comprehensive remote education

training programme and demonstrating commitment to providing high-quality remote education, keeping children and young people safe online and supporting pupil wellbeing.

National Online Safety is a multi-award-winning digital training provider with extensive expertise in online safety, developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory requirements.

Its accredited training courses and educational resources support UK schools in educating the whole school community in online safety– including all school staff, senior leaders, teachers and parents – on how to make the internet a safer place for children. We will be adding the logo of accreditation to our website and letterhead soon:



This is a great achievement and I want to thank everyone involved in ensuring we have effective systems for remote education and in safeguarding our pupils online.

3. Lateral Flow Test (LFT)

Over the last four weeks we have scaled up our programme of Lateral Flow Testing of members of staff as the requirement is for them to be tested twice a week. We have expanded our LFT team in preparation for not only testing members of staff each day, but pupils by year group on each day of the school week; the intention is that each year group will be tested on a separate day e.g. Year 7 on Tuesday, Year 8 on Wednesday and so on. Although we are waiting for the notification from Government on what basis schools will reopen, we are planning to complete a LFT on each pupil in whichever year group returns to school on 8 March 2021; we will only be able to do one year group each day so for example, all Year 11 pupils who have given consent, will be tested on Monday 8 March 2021 and their second test on Thursday 11 March 2021, this is assuming we test all pupils of Year 11 in one day, who have given their consent .

To be able to administer a LFT a patient must be registered on a database and give their consent to be tested. The Registration and consent form will be sent by ParentMail; if you are not registered on ParentMail the registration and consent forms will be sent after half-term. A privacy notice and further detailed information from NHS will also be sent out via ParentMail.

All the tests that have been completed over the last four weeks have had a negative result; our implementation of protective measures in school alongside those practised in the community appear to continue to be effective against transmission.

Once again, I hope this letter provides clarification and is helpful as we continue to work within the challenges of living with a pandemic. As always, as I receive further information or changes to advice and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) I will let you know. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Morrel'.

Ian Morrel
Headteacher