



7 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Update Covid-19, assessment, school operations and strategic plans**

I am writing to let you know about updates relating to COVID-19, procedures relating to the Assessment Series 2021, school operations and strategic plans. I continue to be proud of our children who remain focused on reengaging with learning and adjusting to school routines. Although we have several who do not have their own face mask and are provided with one each day, all, except those who are exempt, wear their mask routinely in the effort to safeguard themselves and those around them. School Leaders have not been informed of any decisions or reviews Government are taking in respect of wearing face masks in school.

At this stage I am not aware of any guidance on how the lifting of restrictions by 21 June 2021 will impact on Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Days or our New Year 7 Information Evening. We anticipate that given the trials regarding large-scale gatherings taking place nationally it will influence decisions to be made for schools regarding events in schools. However, as I mentioned in my letter of 23 April 2021, we will be trialling parents/carers consultation evenings for Years 7 to 10 in the next half-term.

**Maintaining COVID-19 protective measures (self-isolation payments, Home testing and face coverings)**

There is no new information regarding updates, but we do remain vigilant and continue to have protective measures in place including regular cleaning of surfaces across the school, wearing of facemasks by our children, members of staff and visitors, regular handwashing/sanitising and ventilation.

As is usual for this stage in the academic year, we are focusing on KS4 and KS5 assessments and I will provide more detail later in this letter. In addition, we are constructing the timetable for the next academic year, undertaking recruitment for vacant and new posts and developing strategic plans for the next academic year. Although we have not been given any information regarding a "roadmap" for schools for September 2021, as also mentioned in my previous letter, we are undertaking a whole school consultation on what we would consider as changes that have taken place over this last twelve months that we would want to retain and become part of what we do at Titus Salt School. We have all faced many challenges and many things have changed and as much as we want restrictions removing and a return to life pre-COVID-19, there are some changes that have been made in response to the challenges of living with a pandemic that we feel we would like to retain and develop further.

It is the intention that once this internal consultation is complete, we will consult with our Pupil Voice representatives and with parents/carers on key aspects of school operational matters such as parents/carers consultation evenings.

Home Testing remains in place and I wish to thank you for continuing to complete Home Testing and informing us and NHS Track and Trace of the result; the responses to date as recorded on the live system is 6600 Home Test results with twenty-three positive LFD tests being confirmed by a positive PCR

result and of these, eleven isolated cases impacted on other children in school with ten of these between 23 and 28 March 2021.

### **Teacher Assessed Grades Summer Series 2021**

I have previously written to let you know that internal assessments and standardisation has been taking place since we returned to school after the Easter break. In accordance with statutory requirements we have written a Teacher Assessed Grades Summer Series 2021 Policy (<https://bit.ly/3txVY3S>) which takes the guidance direct from the Joint Council for Qualifications (<https://www.icq.org.uk/>) and we are finalising the Assessment Evidence Records by subject which explain the assessments that will have been used to determine the Teacher Assessed Grades; we will publish these on our website and provide a link to all parents/carers.

### **Leaving dates**

I have previously written to explain that a "Leaving Date" for Years 11 and 13 has not been determined. However, as the process for Assessment 2021 requires all grade submissions to be complete by Friday 18 June 2021, there must be sufficient time for marking and standardisation procedures for all teachers of Years 11 and 13. Therefore, I am writing to confirm that:

**Friday 21 May 2021** - Year 11 will have their programme of study suspended until 28 June 2021 when we will invite pupils back in to access a Key Stage 5 Level learning programme as well as support and engagement programmes for pupils considering college or apprenticeship; the detail of these days will be provided by the Denys Salt Sixth Form Team later. If, during the last week of this half-term pupils are required for completion of work for assessment they will be notified by their class teacher

**Friday 28 May 2021** - Year 13 will have their last day in school although some students studying vocational subjects may be required to come into the Denys Salt Sixth Form Centre to complete assessments

### **Results Days**

As we did last year, we will be organising Results Days to allow our pupils/students to collect their results in person:

Tuesday 10 August 2021            Key Stage 5 Results Day

Thursday 12 August 2021        Key Stage 4 Results Day

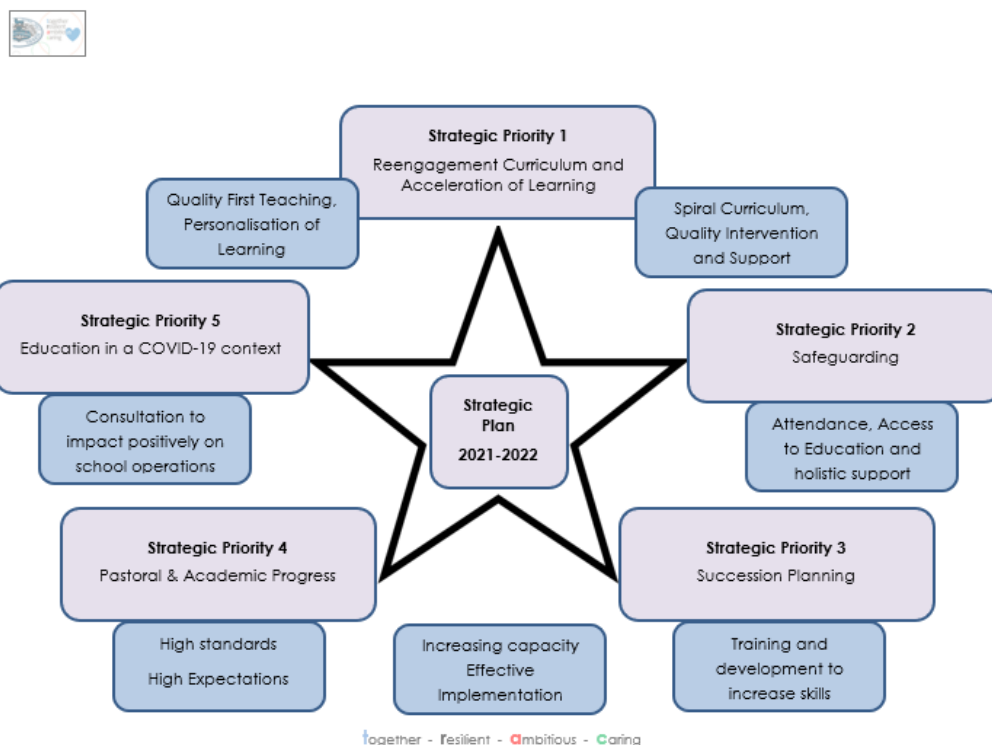
We will let you know the detail of the timings later

### **School Operations**

As mentioned previously, as we adjust to routines we need to reinstate and remind our children of our expectations. I wish to thank our children and you for your support in returning to expectations regarding uniform and hair colour/styles. Although we all accept that these matters do not directly impact on someone's ability to learn, it sets standards and expectations of being a member of the Titus Salt School Community. There are many aspects to this, and some of them we will be reviewing through the consultation process. However, there is one aspect that we need to address which is the noticeable increase in **jewellery** being worn that is not in line with our school policy, which is written into the Pupil Planner and Parent Planner. In response to re-establishing the standard of expectation regarding jewellery, we will, from next week, be allowing a period of one-week's grace for pupils to get used to not wearing the jewellery they have been, in particular nose piercings and other facial piercings. From Monday 17 May 2021 we will return to the procedure of confiscating items of jewellery that are not acceptable in line with our policy. If pupils refuse to support us with this then it will be regarded as defiance and a sanction will be made, not because they are wearing jewellery but because they are not following our standards and expectations and being defiant. Again, this is a way of reinstating our standards and expectations – I wish to thank you for your support with this.

### **Strategic Plans**

In addition to school operational matters we have been reviewing our strategic plans which are linked to the consultation document and have been in part shaped in response to the challenges of COVID-19. The five strategic priorities are summarised in the following diagram:



The inter-relationship of each of the five strategic priorities is to continue to drive up standards, expectations and improve outcomes for our children.

I am sure you are aware of the national system of monitoring those who do not go onto further education, training or employment and this is reported twice a year; in the November 2020 monitoring we had 0% NEET i.e. all our pupils/students were engaged in employment, education or training; the March 2021 monitoring shows another very positive record given the challenges of the current climate adversely impacted by COVID-19, only five out of two hundred and thirty nine former Year 11 pupils are currently not in education, employment or training but are actively seeking training or employment.

Once again, I wish to thank you for your continued support as we all continue to live through the challenges brought about by COVID-19 and embrace the lifting of restrictions. I appreciate the situations we all find ourselves in are demanding but it is encouraging that together we continue to achieve so much.

It has been another demanding week but again it has been a pleasure to be Headteacher as our pupils/students continue to take everything in their stride and enjoy being in school and with each other.

Yours sincerely

Ian Morrel  
Headteacher