

Dear Families,

We have been informed by Barnsley Public Health that the rate of COVID 19 cases across the borough is remaining stubbornly high. As a result, they have asked that all schools consider strengthening measures that are currently in place.

Although cases within our academy are limited in number and have been since the beginning of the academic year, we too have seen this increase over recent weeks and as a result we have reviewed how we will operate the academy in light of the recommendations made by the council to all schools.

As a result of this review, the following measures will be implemented with effect of the first Monday back after half term (Monday 1st November):

### **Face coverings**

Adults in communal settings will be asked to wear face coverings. **This includes when parents and carers are on the school site, particularly at the start and end of the day** when you drop off/pick up your children. Families have previously been great at this so please continue to do so moving forward.

### **Ventilation**

We will continue to ensure that there is good ventilation throughout the building. As the temperature is dropping, you may wish to ensure that your child wears additional clothing layers throughout the autumn and winter months.

### **Reducing mixing**

We will reduce the amount of mixing between year groups and classes where possible. Whilst this is not a return to class based bubbles, we will ensure that measures are put in place to limit mixing where practicably possible e.g. Assemblies and social times. **At this stage, we do not feel it necessary to return to staggered start times for classes but would ask that you arrive at the site to drop your child off; they will then enter directly into their classroom without the need to line up on the playground.** This will keep the flow of people steady across the site and reduce interaction and congestion.

### **Public events & visiting the academy**

From Monday 1st November, we will suspend all whole-school and year group events e.g assemblies. **This will also include any events where parents and families would have been invited to attend.** Wherever possible, these events will be reshaped to take a virtual format so that you get to experience school performances throughout the festive period.

It is recommended that we once again limit visitors to the site. We would ask that you support this by **only visiting the academy office when necessary and that any other requests are carried out by telephone or email contact** – if you do visit the school site, you will be asked to wear a face covering and be offered one by our office staff.

As you will appreciate, the implementation of the above measures will significantly change how we currently operate. We all want to return to normal as soon as possible, however in the context of the council's advice, the changes are necessary at this time. The council has confirmed that it will keep this situation under review and will issue 'stepping down' guidance

as appropriate. We will also continue to review the measures that we have taken. I will write to you again with updates on how our response changes.

I would like to end this letter by thanking you for your understanding, patience and support since being appointed as Head of School in September this year. This is proving to be another difficult year for us all - but by working together we will continue to make positive steps forwards.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Bower', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Bower  
Head of School