



COVID-19 Update, Mr Reynolds, Executive Principal
Thursday 19th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope the message this week finds you and your families safe and well.

In terms of COVID-19, it has not been a good week for us. As well as having to make the painful decision to ask Year 9 to remain at home and be taught remotely, a number of our staff and students have tested positive which has resulted in large numbers of students and staff having to self-isolate. I am proud to say that despite these extraordinary challenges we have continued to teach and provide education to all our young people. I'm equally proud to say we have been able to provide an electronic device to any student who needs to self-isolate and who doesn't have access to one at home. This far exceeds the government's expectations.

When I look at the data for COVID-19 cases for County Durham, Consett is in the group with the highest number of positive cases, so we must all continue to adhere to social distancing measures and follow the lockdown protocols. Talking to the local police and young people themselves, I know they are finding this very difficult and have told me they are continuing to go out in the evenings and weekends to socialise with their friends. Could I please encourage you to keep your son or daughter away from their friends during the lockdown and use technology as a means to 'meet up'.

From next week we are asking students to bring in their own basic equipment (pen, pencil and ruler). I hasten to add they should not share this equipment with their friends.

As the colder weather begins to move in could I ask you to ensure your child is suitably dressed (in appropriate uniform), not just for getting to and from school but also whilst in the building as we have to keep the windows of classrooms open for ventilation.

Finally, can I remind you that the academy is closed on Monday 23 November for staff training purposes as planned in our school calendar for the last year. We are open again on Tuesday 24 November.

Take care

Kevin Reynolds, Executive Principal