



COVID-19 Update, Mr Reynolds, Executive Principal
Friday 13th November

Dear Parent/Carer

Today is a sad day. Every year, the staff and students at Consett Academy plan activities to raise money for Children in Need. Due to the safety measures around Covid 19, we are unable to embrace the fund-raising day as we would normally. I know the students get a lot out of the day themselves whilst being extremely enterprising and raising lots of money. Let us hope that normal service will be resumed next year in 2021!

As I am sure you appreciate from my regular messages, my key priority is to provide safe face to face education for all young people at Consett Academy during the pandemic. This week we have had several students and staff who have tested positive for Covid 19 and therefore some children have had to be sent home to self-isolate with a significant number of staff now self-isolating and teaching remotely through Teams. Today, for example, we have 35 members of staff absent from school.

Unfortunately, we have reached the point where I am unable to safely provide a full face to face education for all year groups. It is with a heavy heart that I have had to write to Year 9 parents and carers today asking them to keep their child at home next week (16 – 20 November). I have assured them that lessons will continue in line with their child's timetable with a mixture of live taught lessons, supplemented by work set by their teachers. The letter contains lots of information to assist with this approach. I sincerely hope that this is a one-off situation which we don't have to repeat, however, I am sure you will agree, the safety of the students must always come first.

I will write again next week with further information and updates.

Given the circumstances I still hope you manage to enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes

Kevin Reynolds, Executive Principal