



# In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

Abbey Grange C of E Academy

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Co-CEO: Ms Catherine Garrett

Co-CEO: Mrs Helen Pratten

Principal: Mr Jon Norden

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Having had an eventful few weeks, I thought it would be helpful to write to you again to update you on where we are at as a school community.

As you will have noticed in the past few weeks, with the regular letters of notification of positive cases that I have been sending out, we have had a period of time with frequent small numbers of cases among students and staff. This necessitated the collapse of two year group bubbles during this period – first Year 9 and more recently Year 12, as well as the requirement of numbers of students in other year groups to stay at home as a result of being identified as close contacts.

However, I am pleased to say that this week has been a quieter one in terms of receiving news about positive Covid-19 cases, and we have now got nearly all staff and students who have had to self-isolate back in school. I am acutely aware though that Leeds remains an area of the country with high numbers of positive cases, and therefore it is highly likely that we will continue to receive news of cases that affect our students and staff over the next few weeks. There also could, of course, be further restrictions imposed on all schools in the future; at the time of writing I am not aware of any plans, but things do move fast these days, and we will respond to anything as and when it comes up.

We are continuing, therefore, to maintain all of our health and safety procedures going forwards, as there is no room for complacency. I am hugely grateful for your support as parents and carers in ensuring that all of our students comply with our rules for the safety of the whole community. We have talked again today to students about the importance of mask wearing in corridors and communal spaces, about not making physical contact with each other, and about not being in groups of more than 6 at break and lunchtimes. Student compliance has been very positive, but it is clear that we will be needing to maintain this approach for the foreseeable future, and therefore we don't want students to let down their guard.

We have continued to follow Public Health guidance in all instances of being told about positive Covid cases, and will continue to do this going forwards. We appreciate that it can be very difficult if you receive a phone call from us, informing you that your child has been identified as a close contact and therefore needs to stay at home for a number of days. However, the parents and carers who have been placed in that situation thus far have been very understanding and supportive, for which I am very grateful.

With half-term just a week away, I want to remind you that we have a training day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, and so school will be closed to students on that day. I hope that in these uncertain times, you and your family will be able to get some time to rest and relax at half-term within the confines of the restrictions that we are all having to abide by in the West Yorkshire area.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Norden  
Principal

