



15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please can I personally thank you for your support and patience during this term. Staff and students have worked tirelessly to get back into the routine of daily school life, and have coped remarkably with the differing arrangements we have had to put in place.

Now the government have confirmed that step 4 of the COVID 19 road map will commence on Monday 19 July, I wanted to write to you to clarify the steps that we will be taking at Abbey Grange Church of England Academy.

We have taken the decision to keep our existing COVID 19 Risk Assessment and all corresponding control measures in place until the end of term. Essentially, we intend to continue operating within the existing bubble structures, we request the wearing of face coverings in communal areas outside classrooms and maintain social distancing wherever possible. This is to ensure that the remaining days of this academic year run as smoothly as possible and without the unnecessary confusion that a change to control measures would bring.

As you will be aware, we have experienced increased COVID 19 cases in school over the last half-term. I would like to reassure you that for every case Public Health is contacted. We also recently had an external visit from the NHS Infectious Control Team linked to Public Health. They reassured us that we have high control measures in place as an Academy and that positive cases remain higher than national average in the surrounding areas of the city and this was a common trend in schools.

Whilst the NHS Track and Trace will take over contact tracing from Monday 19 July, there will still be a requirement for any staff or student identified as a close contact of a positive case to self-isolate until the restrictions are lifted on Monday 16 August 2021. If your child has been asked to self-isolate prior to Monday 19 July, then they will only be able to return to the Academy at the end of the communicated isolation period.

We are currently reviewing all of the new guidance and our planned operations for September 2021 will be communicated before the end of term.

The government have stated that all secondary school students should be offered two lateral flow tests supervised on-site in September 2021. Specific details regarding how this will be managed at our Academy will be shared in due course.





I hope that you understand why we have taken this decision and would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for all of your support over the last few months. I look forward to us hopefully having a more stable, COVID free academic year in 2021/22. God willing.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Thornton'.

Jenny Thornton
Acting Principal