

‘Innovative Education – Transforming Lives’

3rd January 2021

Important Communication from the CEO:

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Happy New Year, I hope you have managed to have a restful Christmas break.

I am writing to update you on further developments on the opening of primary schools. I am sure you will have seen in the media, and the announcements made by the Secretary of State for Education. Today I have been in meetings with the Local Authority and Director of Public Health in Doncaster in order to gain the most up to date evidence about our local infection rates.

Public Health Information: 3rd January 2021

- Doncaster (Whole of South Yorkshire) is currently in **Tier 3**
- Doncaster has **240.5** cases per 100,000. The average in England is **307**
The London boroughs and Kent are showing above 800-1200 per 100,000
- **Statistics by age group**
0-4 yrs = 72 per 100,000
5-9 yrs = 61.6 per 100,000
10-14 yrs = 109 per 100,000
15-19 yrs = 291 per 100,000
- 10-15% of the cases above are of the new Covid-19 variant

Figures compared to Public Health Information: 5th November 2020

- Doncaster (along with South Yorkshire) had been placed into **Tier 3**
- Doncaster had **580** cases per 100,000. The average in England was **200**
- **Statistics by age group**
0-4 yrs = 200 per 100,000
5-19 yrs = 300 per 100,000

Our academies will now open on Tuesday 5th January 2021 in order to implement a Covid-19 planning day to review all the current Health & Safety risk assessments with our staff and implement any further guidance which has just been published.

Attached is a letter from Public Health. I want to reassure you that the safety of both staff and pupils is paramount in our planning. This planning day will allow us to communicate the new information to all our staff members in order to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of consistency, in applying these across all our workforce. We will then communicate with all our pupils and parents on any further measures, we will need to implement, in order to support our systems.

As you will be aware from my previous correspondence, we have been visited at Edlington Victoria by the Health & Safety Inspectorate and we received some excellent feedback on all our systems and procedures.

It is important to outline that all the above procedures will be reviewed weekly and revised according to public health guidance.

It is likely that infection rates will rise within Doncaster as predicted by the scientists and therefore, this has to be a fluid position, where decisions are taken against infection rates on both a local and community level. I will not hesitate to do this, as you know, I took the decision in December and previously in June on this advice.

Weekly testing of Employees:

Today we requested weekly testing to be made available to primary school employees. Public Health and the local authority agreed to this and they have stated that this will be implemented as soon as possible, but no longer than 2 weeks. This will provide us with further reassurance. Whilst you will know, the lateral flow tests are not 100% guaranteed, but it does provide a further protective measure to support our staff, during these difficult times, to continue education for our pupils.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for all your support in helping us to implement these high standards. As public servants, it is important that we play our part in ensuring that vital services still continue. These involve our emergency services, ensuring there is food to eat and providing vital care for our most vulnerable, including elderly people.

The education of our pupils is of utmost importance at this vital time in their life. We want to maintain our face to face provision because as I stated before Christmas, our pupils have achieved so much in their learning and we want this to continue. If you have any concerns about sending your child (ren) to school, please contact us because it is so important that they do attend school.

I want to reassure you all again, that the education and safety of our pupils and staff are paramount in our planning, as well as the need to provide continuity in our provision.

Thank you so much and take care!

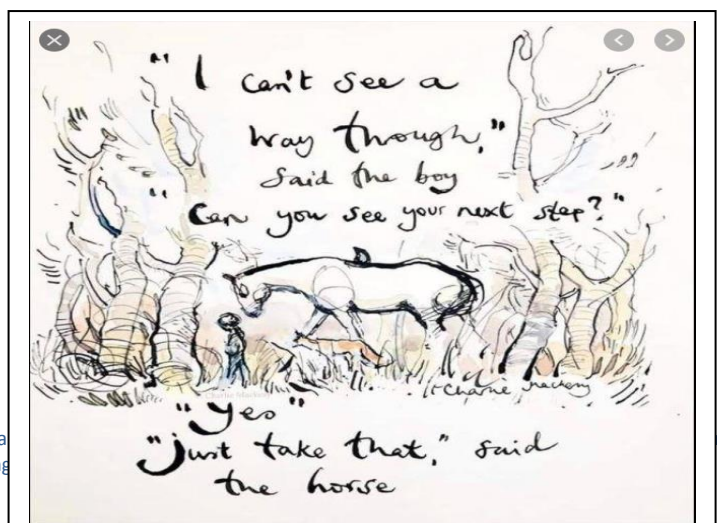
Yours sincerely,

B.A Nixon

**Mrs B.A Nixon
CEO**

**Mr John Blount
Chair of Directors Board**

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