



Exceed Learning Partnership

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Update from the CEO

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the government's announcement yesterday in which South Yorkshire will move into Tier 3 from the earlier hours on Saturday 24th October, I wanted to provide you with a brief update.

Firstly, I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support by adhering to the procedures that have been implemented by the Trust and its academies and for the comments and wonderful compliments that we have received, we really do appreciate hearing from you. The academies within our Trust continue to tightly follow their wider opening risk assessments alongside government guidelines so that we can be as safe as we possibly can.

Dr Rupert Suckling, Director for Public Health in Doncaster explains that the reason that we have been placed into the VERY HIGH Tier 3 category is because Doncaster infection rates are rising rapidly and doubling every week. The rate for 8th – 14th October was 262 per 100,000 people which is a rise from the previous week when the rate was 191 per 100,000.

All age groups are affected by the infection rate rise, so the virus is clearly in our communities, spreading and not halting.

People in Doncaster **must** follow the new, stricter guidance:

- **No household mixing indoors so keep to your own household or bubble.**
- **No mixing in private gardens outdoors.**
- **You can still meet outdoors in some settings (parks, public gardens etc) but the 'rule of 6' still applies. Remember hands, face and space rules are still important outside and should be followed**
- **Pubs and bars must close unless they operate as a restaurant within the guidelines.**
- **Reduce journeys and avoid travel outside of the local area**

Further guidelines can be found:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/health-wellbeing/faqs-local-covid-alert-level-very-high>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-very-high>

Positive Results

To date we have only had a small number of positive case across the whole of the trust where the bubbles were closed; all regulations and procedures were followed which worked extremely well. I would like to thank parents/carers for their support and understanding during this time.

All academies have now been set up with active email alert boxes, so that you can notify us as you are aware of any positive cases. These will be monitored outside of the usual school hours, weekends and throughout the holiday period, the academies can then take the necessary action required.

The alert email address for your academy/school is: alerts@hilltop.doncaster.sch.uk

Exceed Remote Learning Development

As you are aware the academies have implemented a new remote learning platform called 'Seesaw' for Years 1 through to Year 6. This is having a positive impact and pupils are using this as part of their learning within the academies as well as for their home learning.

The platform allows teachers to upload learning and pupils can respond to this in different ways such as using photographs, video, writing or drawings. The teachers can then provide feedback to the pupils via the platform; the platform will be used by academies to provide learning to pupils who are in bubbles that have to close or for any pupil who is self-isolating due to symptoms

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank you for your support during this time, and hope that you have a happy, safe and healthy half term break. Please support our academies, communities and others by continuing to stay safe and adhering to the government and local authority guidance.

Yours sincerely



Beryce Nixon
CEO
National Leader of Education

