

April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Staff,

I have written to you several times over the course of this academic year. On some of those occasions the subject matter has been somewhat challenging because of the environment in which we were working.

However, throughout the year I have been able to give one consistent message of thanks. Those thanks continue to be due, to everyone within our Trust community – students, staff, governors and parents alike.

On behalf of STAR, we would be delighted if every family and every student could contribute to the 'Big Ask' national Survey:

National survey of children, The Big Ask, launches

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched [The Big Ask](#) – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

All schools are encouraged to support their pupils to [complete this survey](#). Parents, care leavers and those working with children are also invited to [complete the adult survey](#) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back.

The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

We will of course look upon these results with great interest and use these alongside our own evolving comprehensive return data and the recent 'Growing Up In North Yorkshire' surveys (years 2, 6, 10 and 12), to help us progress our ambitious plans at Trust and school level in the next academic year.

We have now reached the very favourable position that this summer should allow us to move to gradually 'unlock' as a nation. In our STAR community we have had significant success in keeping the incidence rate of Covid-19 low through stringent application of our system of controls. Those remain in full force, including our Face Coverings Policy and restrictions to visitors on site. In due course we will assess the risks of allowing some visitors and important curriculum visits to go ahead, but these will only be done gradually and in a considered way. Safety, health and wellbeing remain our absolute priority – we are just delighted to see everyone back together, having fun and learning on-site, and would not wish to do something that would compromise this.

There are several ways you can help us this term:

- Please do continue to follow your school's site specific guidance alongside Trust policy – the rules on our sites may, in places, be more rigorous than those which apply to wider society for good reason.
- For our High School students, please do also continue to fully engage with Lateral Flow Testing, if you feel you can, as this has become an integral part of our control measures.
- Please do also continue to encourage and support your child with their home learning. Whilst we are back on site, schooling is always a partnership and now more than ever we need to harness this to ensure that every pupil has the best possible journey through their learning.

Sadly, the restrictions and controls currently in place make it extremely challenging to plan for transition this year and it seems highly unlikely that this will be able to take place in its traditional form this term. However, we are working relentlessly on planning to ensure that every pupil has opportunities to prepare themselves for their next class/school or setting and hopefully have the vast majority of their questions answered well in advance of September.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Yapp

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