

23rd June 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students,

As you will have seen from recent local and national press coverage, and also many of you will have been directly experiencing, we are currently facing more direct impacts of Covid with positive PCR and lateral flow tests meaning pupil and staff absences, self-isolations, closures of bubbles and, in one case, a “firebreak” school closure. All this, despite of the national vaccine roll-out.

I do not underestimate the challenge that this may be causing for you and I wanted to share the STAR MAT’s thanks for all you are doing to support our schools through this journey. I recognise that arrangements changing at short notice is not easy - each time we think “we’re getting there”, there seems to be a knock back, doesn’t there?

I want to reassure you that all of the decisions that are being made are taken in line with local and national guidance and policy, are fully thought out and considered, and made in the interests of pupils, staff and the public more generally. No decisions are taken lightly. Ultimately though we cannot and will not compromise in the prioritisation of health, safety and well-being. We have to be “good citizens” and I thank you for your understanding and acceptance of that.

Throughout the pandemic we have seen our schools, leaders, and staff adapt incredibly to ensure that a seamless education is provided to our students. That is an amazing achievement and one which, I know, has been appreciated by those affected. We have truly remarkable staff and leaders, and their dedication and commitment to their work is something which has stood out and shone throughout this difficult period.

I also know many of you have families facing school transitions this year and you are likely to have some apprehensions about the changes children will face. Staff are working so hard to put in place the best arrangements they can to ensure those changes go smoothly and I know that these will, at every stage, have your child at the heart of the planning.

We, as a Trust, are incredibly grateful for the part you all in our Trust community are playing in making this work - parents and carers, our remarkable and resilient pupils, and our dedicated and exceptional staff.

Thank you to you all. I hope you stay well and safe.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Thornton-Eckford
Chair of Trustees, the STAR Multi-Academy Trust