

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Staff,

**Covid-19 Control Measures Summer Term 2021**

As we approach the end of the school year I wanted to share a few important updates with regard to national Covid-19 guidance and control measures, now that step 4 on the Government roadmap has been confirmed to commence from Monday 19th July.

I am sure you will be aware that nationally, large numbers of pupils and staff in schools are still impacted by the virus, whether that be directly or through contact tracing arrangements and bubble closure. Working in partnership with Public Health NYCC, we know that this is repeated at schools across North Yorkshire and also, as we know, in our own Trust schools. The current self-isolation and wider group contact tracing arrangements continue past the end of this term, in fact until 16th August.

With this in mind, such as we can work to continue to best protect everyone's safety and wellbeing, as well as minimise any self-isolation impact on summer holiday plans, we have decided to keep our full system of controls in place for the remainder of the summer term.

In practice, this means that until the end of this term, your child's Trust school will maintain bubble arrangements, staggered starts and finishes, face coverings and other safety measures as current unless specifically identified otherwise. We would ask for your support in this and we would strongly encourage the continued use of face coverings on our school sites in line with current usage.

Hopefully the summer break will see the positive direction we are all hoping for and the autumn term guidance will be in place as per step 4. We are delighted that the autumn should see the removal of bubbles and the vast majority of school life will become fully accessible once again. Individual school communications will help guide you through what to expect and when further detail will be available - we know that for some families and students they have only encountered our schools in a bubble/Covid-19 environment and we will handle the transition period sensitively and with care for every individual.

In closing, thank you to you once again for your support throughout this very challenging year. I hope you have a happy, restful summer and let's all look forward to a successful year ahead. For those staff, students and families leaving the Trust, we wish you all the very best for your future and look forward to hearing of your continued success.

Yours sincerely,

*Ian Yapp*

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