



6 January 2021

RE: Severndale lockdown response – On-site/ off-site blended learning (UPDATE)

Dear parent carers

Thank you for your patience and for baring with us as we organise ourselves in line with updated guidance from the Department for Education, Public Health, teaching and support staff Unions, and Lateral Flow Testing. The beginning of 2021 has been busy! We recognise that the impact on families has been equally as great and I thank you for the overwhelmingly positive and supportive response our staff have received from you. It has been fantastic to welcome back nearly half our population of pupils today.

On-site learning

As I explained in my letter yesterday, the situation regarding capacity and class size in 3 of our larger departments have been under review. Using the information that we have, we have reviewed each class on a case-by-case using our knowledge of staffing levels, pupil needs, classroom space, the approach needed for effective teaching and learning, and the approach needed to keep Covid-secure in line with our updated academy COVID-19 risk assessment, available on our website.

There are 8 classes from within the Pre-Formal, Semi-Formal, and Formal departments which we have needed to work with parent carers to find solutions. We have prioritised pupils who have additional vulnerabilities to be able to access full time, on-site education. We are grateful to all parent carers who we have spoken to today for their support to address issues using a bespoke pupil rota for the identified classes.

Leave of Absence requests

Thank you to those who have sent us a leave of absence request. We have now assessed them all and you should receive notification of the outcome this evening.

As the situation progresses I am happy for parent carers to give notice of their intention for their child/ young person to return to on-site learning, or alternatively, to submit a new request.

Lateral Flow Testing

As we move forwards, we are positive that the situation will improve as vaccines are rolled out into our communities, and in the interim, that further confidence can be built up in our environments and surroundings as we begin Lateral Flow Testing. We are very hopeful that we can start offering tests for staff at Monkmoor site from tomorrow afternoon, with an offer to staff at Futures and Severndale@MaryWebb from Friday. Further information will be shared with you by the end of the week regarding the offer to secondary aged pupils.

Thanks again for your support this week. Please let us know if you have any queries and we will do our best to promptly address these.

Best regards,

Sabrina Hobbs, Principal