



RE: Weekly update – 22/10/2021

22 January 2021

Dear parent carers

I hope that you are all well and keeping warm! Behind the scenes this week we have been working very closely with the Learning Community Trust (LCT) and the Department for Education (DfE) to work towards the transition into the LCT on the 1st February 2021. We are all hopeful that this can be achieved with the legal teams of all our partner agencies. This is an exciting new chapter for Severndale and I know that Gill, CEO of LCT is looking forward to our Severndale community being part of her Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and will communicate directly with you soon.

The situation this week

Staffing and class groups:

- This week, overall attendance has reached as high as 54% on Monkmoor Campus, 43% at Severndale@Mary Webb and up to 74% at Futures. This is approximately double the national average for attendance at Special Schools during the current lockdown which is testament to the trust and confidence that our community has in our ability to support our children and young people during this challenging time. We are grateful for the continued support of parent carers and staff for working together to ensure our environments remain safe places for everyone.
- To maintain our clean environments and enable pupils and staff to sanitise/ wash hands even more regularly during the period of national lockdown, we are managing pupil numbers in all classes. We have worked with the parent carers of 21 class groups to agree bespoke pupil rotas, with priority of full time provision given to pupils with additional vulnerabilities.
- We have managed staff absence of between 26%-30% this week.

Class bubble closures:

- 2 class bubbles returned from 10 day isolation following positive Covid test results.
- A further 2 people (4 in total) have tested positive within an already isolated class bubble from the week before last. This was a class group in 6th Form and thankfully seems not to have transmitted beyond the class bubble. We wish the staff and pupils a speedy recovery.
- 2 class bubbles closed and re-opened following negative test results.
- 6 class bubbles have closed to isolate as we await test results.

Lateral Flow Tests – testing for asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers:

- Our thanks go to the number of staff who have gone above and beyond to step-up, learn new roles, complete online training (including a competency test), and working outside of school hours to maintain their daytime jobs, in order to ensure the smooth running of our new 'test centres'. Many staff have praised their colleagues for their supportive, enthusiastic and positive approach which has made such a difference to staff confidence and overall wellbeing.
- 74 Secondary aged pupils were tested – all results were thankfully negative.
- 320 staff tests were carried out, all results are negative.

Survey – What do you think about our Remote Education/ Distance Learning Offer?

I would like to thank parent carers and staff who have given feedback over the last 10 months regarding our offer of distance learning and support. Our offer has evolved over time to reflect this feedback as we try to mould around the needs of your family in lockdown. It is clear that many of us have found this lockdown the most challenging of all, and it is no wonder! It has been nearly a year since we have had our support structures readily available to us, and the choice to either relax or be busy, to travel or stay local. I would like you to know that we continue to advocate strongly for you and your children/ young people and we are inspired by your resilience and the continuous care that you have shown throughout.



That said, we are keen to further support you and your child/ young person where we can to further improve this situation and make the best of what is available whether your child is staying at home or coming into school.

Please use the link below to complete a very quick survey to tell us about your current situation, particularly when your child is learning from home due to their Leave of Absence or during times of self-isolation; how happy you are with our distance learning and wellbeing checks, if you are happy with your child/ young person's access to devices, and if you are receiving weekly planning. This link will also be sent in a text for easy access:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6J9W837>

Further developments in Remote Education:

We are constantly exploring new and innovative ways to make distance learning more engaging for both you and your child/ young person, not just during Covid times, but also to support homework and other broader opportunities for teaching and learning. Currently we are looking at SeeSaw as a potential tool, which has just been introduced with very positive reviews to HLC Primary (a Primary school from within the LCT MAT). Please let us know if you have had any experience of this learning platform and what you thought of it, and we will keep you updated of our progress with this.

Safeguarding update:

Following on from the very positive result from the external Safeguarding Audit in November, we have further improved our safeguarding policy to include more detail regarding the various type of risks within our context and locality, and how we mitigate against these. We have also included an additional section about how we safeguard vulnerable adults within 6th Form and Futures. Please find the additions and amendments highlighted in Green in the attached policy, to help you identify the updates. This update is also available on the school Website.

If you have any queries, feedback or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,

Sabrina Hobbs, Principal