



RE: Weekly update 31/3/21

Dear parent carers

Happy National Autism Awareness Week! – There are some great links, information and advice on:

www.autism.org.uk.

I have recently watched a very interesting BBC Two documentary on BBC iPlayer, hosted by TV presenter Chris Packham, 'Asperger's and me'. It highlights how those with ASD see, hear and feel a different perspective of the world. I also think it is positive how those in the public eye are beginning to raise the profile of those who are different, and celebrate this whilst increasing awareness within society. This will help to make the future for your children and young people more inclusive and accessible as communities are more informed.

We are looking forward to the Summer Term when we will begin to venture out into our local community and take our first steps towards engaging in our inclusive links once again as Covid restrictions gradually get lifted.

The situation this week - Class bubble closures

- Thankfully the positive lateral flow test from last week, has been confirmed negative following a PCR test result, so there have been zero positive Covid cases.
- 2 class bubbles remain closed following pupils showing Covid symptoms. We are hopeful that test results will be confirmed before the end of term and appreciate the support of parent carers in letting us know ASAP so that we can notify the closed bubbles.
- There have been zero asymptomatic cases identified from lateral flow tests.

Easter holiday arrangements

We will operate the same arrangements as we did during February half term, for the first week of the Easter break. There will be a volunteer group of staff on a rota who will check the email inbox below on a daily basis, between 10am – 12pm. Should we need to close a class/ transport bubble, we will make contact via email/ text. We would be grateful if you could please check your email during this time to support this process and let us know if you would like a follow up call. We thank you for your understanding and help with this as we appreciate that the success of this strategy relies on our collective efforts. We also thank all staff who will work voluntarily through the Easter break to support us with this.

Please use this email address **only if your child/ young person has a positive PCR test** (if your home test shows a positive test result, you will need to get a PCR test done):

trackandtrace@severndaleacademy.co.uk – please use this email address during the Easter break as other emails may not be checked regularly.

Lateral Flow home testing kits

These kits will be sent home with all secondary aged pupils and we encourage you to continue testing for asymptomatic results during the Easter holidays. This will be at your discretion. Instructions of how to carry out the tests are within the boxes, but please contact us using the email above if you have any questions regarding this.



Easter holiday help booklet

Please find attached an updated version of the holiday help booklet. We have used safeguarding information from the past few months to identify specific areas of support that you, or members of our community, may find useful. Please let us know if there is other information that you would like us to add into the booklet for the May half term holiday. We recognise that the last 12 months have been challenging in many different ways, but you are not alone, we will do what we can to support.

Local Governing Body

Following our transfer to the Learning Community Trust (LCT), there has been a lot of activity to adopt trust policies, rationalise financial arrangements of the academy, and establish a new Local Governing Body (LGB) to govern the school. We held our first LGB meeting on 17/3/21 and welcomed new members to the board, as well as a couple of the previous members of the former Board of Trustees. Following this first meeting, our website will be updated to show the new constitution of school governance.

Parent carer council

Due to other priorities, parent carer council have not yet met since the Autumn Term. I am keen to get this started again and gain input into our review of EHCP processes, and planning for a Severndale virtual SEND conference. Over the week beginning 24/5/21, We plan to host a series of briefings and workshops with partners from Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology, Occupational Health, Children's and Adult's Social Care, as well as from our own key staff to share information and gain feedback on our departments, curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning.

Goodbye, and welcome....

After 4 years of working alongside me and the senior leadership team, Louise Tilley, PA, will be leaving us in the Easter break to start an executive PA role within the private sector. She has done an amazing job for us and many of you will have experienced her professionalism and supportive approach over the years, so will join me in thanking and wishing her well! We welcome Lynne Beeston who will be taking over this key role, bringing lots of PA skills and Shropshire experience with her. She will support us on a temporary basis, covering the Summer Term, until we appoint a permanent person.

We also welcome Katie Wrenshall-Jones back to the senior leadership team following MAT leave, as Assistant Principal responsible for Teaching & Learning, Co-lead on EHCPs, admissions, and parent carer council, amongst other aspects of leadership. She will make contact with you soon with an invitation to the next parent carer council meeting.

Best wishes for a lovely Easter weekend and an enjoyable holiday as restrictions are lifted!

Sabrina Hobbs, Principal