



January 4th 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I wanted to write to you to clarify the situation regarding school opening. There has been much in the press over the past week and the government has made several last-minute announcements that have added to family stress and confusion.

As an alternative provision academy, the government regard all our learners as vulnerable irrespective of the reason they were referred to us. This means that we are expected to stay fully open for all our learners as it stands now (1:30pm on Monday 4th January).

Our testing kits for secondary aged learners arrived mid-morning after the learners had arrived and as yet we have not got the staffing in place to conduct the tests. We aim to get this in place by the middle of the week and then the staff will need to complete the training to supervise the tests being carried out. Similarly, we do not yet have the space available to conduct the tests safely but we are working to find a solution as quickly as possible given the limitations of our site. Obviously, we will not allow tests to take place without your written consent, and I will write to parents of secondary aged learners separately about that.

We have robust measures in place to operate as safely as possible. We have adopted a zero-tolerance approach for anyone who fails to follow our COVID-secure practices and I ask that you stress to your child the importance of following all the public health guidance – staying 2m apart, wearing a mask, and washing/sanitising hands thoroughly and frequently in order to keep everyone safe, including whilst travelling to and from school.

Yet even with these preventative measures in place, I cannot guarantee that your child will not be exposed to coronavirus whilst in school. Following a number of phone conversations this morning, I know many of you are concerned about sending your child to school. You must make the decision that is best for you and your family. If you believe it is safe for them to come to school we will be open; if you decide it is safer to keep them at home we will provide work – online, live lessons and paper-based for those of you who let us know that you want to keep your child at home. We will carry out welfare calls for those of you who decide to keep your child at home to meet our safeguarding responsibilities.

We want to work with you to ensure that we are all pulling together to stay safe whilst still providing education for your children. These are uncertain times and the constant changes at the last minute are not helping any of us. Please keep an eye on the website as we will put all updates on there (www.ttapa.net) and direct COVID related questions to covidqueries@ttapa.net

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we try to keep our provision safe and open.

Yours faithfully

A Isherwood
Headteacher

