



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Today's letter contains some important information for parents about Covid-19 support payments, information about the summer term, a couple of wonderful stories about the fundraising that some of our pupils have been involved in recently and some information about our plans for next academic year. The last page is a poster that I have been asked to share by a parent regarding two missing dogs. I apologise for the length of the letter!

Test and Trace support payment for parents (from Cheshire East)

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by Cheshire East, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities. This payment is available for isolations which began on or after 8th March. Parents have a window of 6 weeks in which to apply for the payment from the first day of isolation.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the **same household** and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they **cannot work from home** while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result

-they meet all the other **means-tested eligibility** criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

- That their child or young person:

- is aged **15 or under** (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

If you are eligible for this we will provide a letter of support for you.

Once an application for a payment has been received, the local authority will be in touch with your setting to verify the details of the child provided on the application. This will include a check of the child's name, age, address and days of self-isolation. This check is to minimise the event of fraudulent claims. It may be conducted before or after a payment is made, depending on the arrangements the individual local authority has chosen to put in place.

Holiday period:

As I'm sure you are well aware, we break up for the Easter Holidays this Thursday (1st April). School reopens on Monday 19th April. It is essential that if your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 during the holidays that you arrange a PCR test for them. You don't need to inform the school that you have arranged a test (unless your child is attending our holiday provision). However, if your child tests positive you **must** inform us of this so that we can implement track and trace. The best way to do this is by ringing the school mobile phone **07899 040876**. If your call is not answered please leave a voicemail or send a text.

Summer term:

For the time being our current risk assessment will continue to be implemented after the Easter holidays. This means that the staggered start times and the one-way system for drop off/collection will remain in place. We will be reviewing this regularly and will ensure that you are notified of any changes,

Highfields have always been a big supporter of Initial Teacher Training. Next term we will be hosting a number of students from Chester University and

supporting them in gaining their teacher qualifications. We have 5 associate teachers in total and they will be allocated to the following classes:

Reception: Miss Redfearn
Year 2: Miss Morgan
Year 4: Miss Alderman
Year 5: Miss Barber
Year 6: Miss Nicholson

We look forward to welcoming the associate teachers into school after Easter.

Next academic year:

We have now finalised our arrangements for where teaching staff will be deployed next year:

Reception: Mr Fowler
Year 1: Mrs Bradley and Mrs Hughes
Year 2: Miss Addis
Year 3: Miss Garner
Year 4: Mrs Richards
Year 5: Mr Strefford
Year 6: Miss Hermitt

Next half term we will begin the process of induction for the pupils that will be joining us next September; further information about this will follow after the holidays. In the final term before summer we will also be arranging moving up days so that children can meet and get to know their teacher for next year.

Charity work:

One of the real highlights of the last 12 months has been hearing about the amazing charity work that some of our pupils have been involved in. This week I heard about two more pupils and want to share this with you.

Esther Dunn (Year 3):

Esther saw the campaign 'Walk over Cancer' publicised on television and wanted to get involved so she signed up. Her pledge was to walk a minimum of 10,000 steps every day during March and, with three days remaining, she has done just that. Through her efforts and a spot of social media promotion, Esther has so far raised over £600 for Cancer Research UK. Very well done Esther, we are so proud of you! An amazing effort. If you would like to support Esther please let us know and I'll pass your contact details onto her parents.

Toby Scarlett (Year 6):

On 3rd of April at 10am Toby will be doing 25,000 'keepy-uppies' to raise money for his friend and a fellow Crewe Alex Academy player. His friend was

recently diagnosed with Osteosarcoma and after two rounds of chemotherapy treatment, the decision was made for him to undergo a through knee amputation. The money Toby is raising is to go towards a prosthetic limb which will allow his friend to continue to pursue his sporting ambitions to the best of his ability.

The link to Toby's fundraising page is:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/toby-scarlett?utm_term=JPpxYRbv6

We wish Toby the very best of luck!

Finally can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter break. Have fun, stay safe and we will see you very soon. As always, many thanks for your support.

Simon Dyson
Principal

