



# Highfields Academy

*Together we inspire, always aiming higher*

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Wednesday 9th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a fantastic half term break. We were certainly fortunate with the weather; let's hope that continues. I apologise for the length of today's letter but there is quite a lot of important information that I wish to share with you.

## **Covid-19:**

It has been great to be able to remove the one way system that has been in place for the last 15 months. We wait to see what announcements will be made next week before we decide whether any further changes can be made to our current risk assessment. I think everyone is aware from watching the news that there are concerns in certain areas regarding the delta variant. Cheshire East regularly contacts schools with guidance and some key messages from their latest bulletin are shared with you below in blue font:

Cases in Cheshire East continue to rise. Today's rate stands at **84.1/100,000**, with a high incidence in 17/18yr olds where the case rate is 785/100,000, and 12-16yr olds where it is 253/100,000.

As a result, the Cheshire East Test and Trace Team have worked closely with regional and national leads to provide a range of additional asymptomatic PCR testing, as per the below:

## **PCR tests for those without symptoms at Local Testing Sites (LTS')**

### **Chester Street Car Park, Crewe, CW1 2ER**

- Opening hours 0800 – 2000
- Walk in
- On Portal (book appointment through national website  
- <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> )

### **Commercial Road, Macclesfield, SK10 1GA**

- Opening hours 0800 – 2000
- Walk in
- On Portal (book appointment through national website  
- <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> )

Residents are offered a PCR test and then given several lateral flow tests to take home.

## **PCR tests for those without symptoms at Mobile Testing Units (MTUs)**

The following sites are either live or will go live this week:

### **Middlewich Town Football Club - Finney's Ln, Middlewich CW10 9DR (commencing Wednesday 9 June at 0900)**

- Starting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, for 7 days with review planned early next week
- Opening hours 0900 – 1600
- Walk in
- Off Portal (no need to book)
- Asymptomatic Testing

### **Cranage Hall – Byley Lane, Cranage, Holmes Chapel, CW4 8EW (commencing Wednesday 9 June at 0900)**

- Starting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, for 7 days with review planned early next week
- Opening hours 0900 – 1600
- Walk in
- Off Portal (no need to book)
- Asymptomatic Testing

### **Handforth Youth Centre - Old Rd, Handforth, Wilmslow, SK9 3DA (already live with planned deployment to 13 June 2021)**

- Already operational, planned deployment until Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- Opening hours 1030 – 1430
- Walk in
- Off Portal (no need to book)
- Asymptomatic Testing

Please remember that if you or any of your family display any of the symptoms related to Covid-19 it is **imperative** that you arrange for a PCR test at a testing centre and that all family members **must** isolate until the result of the test is known. For people who display symptoms it is not sufficient to use an LFD test, these are only to be used for people with no symptoms. If the test result is positive then all family members (close contacts) **must** isolate for 10 days; a negative LFD test during this period does not over-ride the need to isolate.

## **Relationships and Sex Education consultation:**

Before the holiday I wrote to you to explain our plans regarding the consultation process for our RSE curriculum that needs to be in place by September 2021.

The next stage of the consultation will be to hold a meeting which is open to all parents. Unfortunately we are not able to do that face to face on site due to the obvious reasons so we will be doing this via Zoom. The meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm. I will be chairing the meeting and the Chair of the LAB, Sarah Matthews, and PSCHE subject lead Paul Fowler will also be attending.

The final stage of the consultation will be to present and discuss parents' views at our Local Advisory Board Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July, and following this we will amend and approve the policy. Once this is approved it will replace the policy that is currently on the website.

Please note that during this meeting it will not be possible to share all the documents and resources with you. They are all available on the school website <http://www.highfieldsacademytrust.co.uk/page/relationships-and-sex-education/3772>. The policy itself contains links to the books that we propose to use to support the delivery of 'No Outsiders in our School' as well as an overview of the curriculum and you will also find on this page a folder for each year group that contains the lesson plans for our proposed Sex Education curriculum.

We are very keen to seek your views about the proposed curriculum and also whether you feel that anything else should be included.

We hope that you are able to join us for the meeting. All we ask is that you familiarise yourself with the policy and the resources prior to the meeting.

## **Transition into Reception (September 2021) and into Y7 (Malbank and Brine Leas).**

I look forward to the day I can write to you and not start off any of my sentences with 'Due to Covid-19'!!

I have received emails from both Brine Leas and Malbank this week to inform us that they are in the process of reviewing their transition plans for Year 6 pupils. I'm sure that very soon we will receive further information regarding this.

We have also had to review our plans for transition for those pupils who will be joining us in September 2021. I know that Mr Fowler has already met many of our new pupils (those who attend Little Crickets). If your child currently attends a different setting Mr Fowler will be contacting them this week to arrange to meet the children.

Normally in June we invite all new parents into school for an induction meeting. Again, we are unable to do that at the moment but we will be running an induction session via Zoom. This will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 6.00pm.

In normal times we would ensure that the children have visited the school before the end of this term. Last year we were unable to do this and so we arranged for the children to start school a day earlier than all other pupils. We are not yet sure whether it will be possible to arrange sessions for our new pupils this side of the summer holiday so we are going to do the same this year. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September is an INSET day so we are going to open from 9.00am – 12.00pm for reception pupils only on this day. All other pupils will return to school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Further details about how this will be arranged will be shared during the induction meeting and confirmed in writing too.

If there is any way that we can bring the children into school before the end of the summer term we will do our best. Whilst this arrangement is not perfect it did work very effectively last September.

As always, many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Dyson  
Principal