

26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. This last week has been somewhat of a challenge, as, with the twice weekly home testing of all staff and students aged 11 and over, we have seen an increase in the number of asymptomatic positive Covid-19 cases across the Trust. This has meant that we have a number of staff and students (approximately 180 in total) who are now self-isolating as they have been identified as contacts of these positive cases. As you would expect, these are mostly associated with South Axholme Academy, it being our largest academy and where the greatest number of tests are being done, but not exclusively.

As part of our responsibilities when a positive case is shared with us, we have to report details of each case to a number of external agencies (such as Public Health North Lincolnshire) so that they are able to monitor cases and identify links, if any, between them. Such reporting has brought to light across the area, the fact that not all of the North Lincolnshire community are observing the current lockdown requirements as strictly as they might. We know that everyone is ready for the next stage of the Government's plan to bring the country out of lockdown, but I would urge you in the strongest way possible to please support the lengths and efforts we have gone to across the Trust to safeguard the wellbeing of staff and students. I cannot stress enough the time and effort that our teams in all departments have dedicated to keeping buildings clean and Covid secure, and the adjustments staff have made to be able to manage blended learning, teaching children in the classroom whilst accommodating those who have had to self-isolate. To then hear that a very small minority of people are undoing all of our efforts is frustrating to say the least.

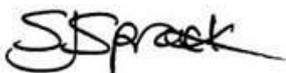
On this theme, North Lincolnshire Council have, in an attempt to support communities to stay safe during Covid-19, put in place Covid Prevention Assistants (CPAs). The CPAs will work in communities across North Lincolnshire and provide advice regarding social distancing and other safe practices. A key part of their role is to

- Act as a steward, offering advice and support to members of the public and local businesses during the week, weekends and evenings.
- Ensure that people and businesses are adhering to legislation and guidance around social distancing, face coverings and hand hygiene etc

Covid Prevention Assistants can be identified by their orange high vis jackets and will be out and about over the coming days and weeks.

Finally, as we move in to our last four days before the Easter break, I would like to acknowledge the incredible amount of support we have received from parents throughout this very challenging year. Despite what I have touched upon above, the great strength of Isle Education Trust is still the shared ambition to be the best we can be for the students who come through our doors achieved by working together with parents and communities positively and supportively. To those who have taken the time to pass on thanks to staff, please know it is appreciated and does make a huge difference.

Next week, you will receive an update (hopefully brief as there will have been no major changes or announcements!) on Thursday. Until then, take care and keep safe.



S J Sprack  
CEO Isle Education Trust