

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your co-operation in getting all students back to education safely. I write to share with you how it's going and to remind you of a few basics so that we can continue to remain a safe site for staff and learners.

Students have settled in well, with a few needing reminders of the routines and habits for learning. Please support us by ensuring students are getting enough sleep as body clocks adjust to the regular timings of the day.

We are finding that in our secondary phase particularly, the prolonged use of social media has led to issues coming into school which we are dealing with. As parents/carers, please can you support us by monitoring and limiting the time and nature of activities children are exposed to. We on our part, will remind students of this in PSHE and in IT lessons.

Whilst we are on the first phase of releasing the lockdown restrictions, I would like to emphasise that Covid-19 infections are still relatively high locally. In our secondary phase, this week alone, 7 learners have reported a positive Covid-19 test (through PCR testing not lateral flow testing), and as a result there are learners who are now self- isolating. This reminds us that it is imperative we continue to be vigilant and continue to do the following:

- Maintain high levels of hygiene by washing hands and the use of sanitiser, ensuring surfaces are wiped down after use (eg when using IT equipment), any coughs or sneezes are caught with a tissue and tissues disposed of appropriately
- Wear masks in our secondary phase when unable to maintain social distance in classrooms and in communal areas
- Remain at home if any of the symptoms of Covid-19 are present and inform the school

I appreciate it is tempting to relax on these measures when we have been doing them for nearly a year and when there seems to be "light at the end of the tunnel". However, we must remember that only 30% of the population nationally have received the vaccination and so we are not in position to drop our guard.

We continue to offer the lateral flow tests for secondary aged learners and all staff. We have, thanks to our team of volunteer testers, conducted 530 tests this week. All have returned negative results.

Yours faithfully

*Tehmina Hashmi*

Tehmina Hashmi  
Executive Principal