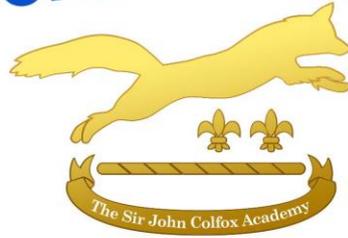


# The Sir John Colfox Academy



***Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence***

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

September 2021

Dear Parents

It has been another busy week in Colfox with school clubs both at lunch times and after school being well attended, lots of sports fixtures with other schools and some trips! All of this as well as the fantastic learning going on in the classrooms.

The measures we have put in place with masks are having an effect on the number of students self-isolating but I am still keeping a close eye on this. In order to spread the students out a bit in the morning we now have Year 10 students entering through the far C block door near PE so this should help as an additional measure. I will of course let you know if we get any further advice from Public Health about further measures that are needed and I thank you for your support with keeping the school community as safe as we can.

Talking to other schools, we are not alone in having cases and this was expected when schools started in September with none of the measures that were in place before. According to an article I read last week, around 100,000 students were self-isolating in English schools last week and currently we are not a school that has particularly high cases compared with others. I think we just are perhaps more worried as we did not see many cases last year. We are following all guidance, identifying potential cases quickly, and ensuring we are taking action and this is working. It does not help that there is another bug going around at the moment as well.

Please keep doing the twice weekly voluntary lateral flow tests at home. I am sure you are like me with a family routine of doing them on particular days. These have been really good at identifying students early if not always confirmed via a PCR test. Also remember if your child has any of the Covid symptoms please keep them at home and book a PCR test. Working together is key to this. I wanted to thank you for all the positive support and messages we have had from parents during the whole pandemic and especially in this new phase, the whole of the school staff really appreciate this.

I know that we don't always get things right or as parents expect but we are trying. We are all working hard to ensure that students are supported both in school or if they are isolating. This is both with their education and their wellbeing.

The online learning will look different from during lockdown, when teacher focus was purely focused on online learning, and our expectation was that teachers put the lessons on Teams at the beginning of the day. Teachers are setting work for those isolating **and** doing a full days



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teaching, so the work will be set; it may not be at the time of the lesson but it will be there and will be set. I would like to thank the teachers who are working so hard to ensure that all their students are receiving a good education whether in school or at home, they are brilliant!

We are getting asked about vaccinations, as this was announced by the prime minister last week. Currently we are waiting for information from NHS England and the School age immunisation service and we will let you have the information as soon as we do. Please do not contact school about this as this process is not led by the school it is the NHS.

I hope that soon, when I write to you, I can just talk about all the fantastic things going on at Colfox rather than all the things we are doing to keep as safe as possible during this pandemic as I am sure that is what you would prefer to hear as well. It has been a long eighteen months.

Thank you again for your support as we work together and support each other through this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Shelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Adam Shelley  
Headteacher