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Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers

Thanks to your support, many more children in our Trust have started back to school when compared with national figures as revealed by the Prime Minister yesterday. We really appreciate your help in enabling all of our schools to get off to such a good start.

In this letter we are including the following: information concerning the Trust mentor scheme, a survey to capture your thoughts about safety at school as we come towards the end of the second week, information to help parents regarding the virus, the use of masks at our secondary schools and social distancing at the school gates.

Mentor scheme

One of the key aspects of the Trust Skills for Life strategy concerns the mentoring of pupils in our secondary schools. We firmly believe that this gives them a head start when they are about to enter the world of work.

As it is the start of a new year, mentors are being sought from the business world to work with individuals depending on their preferred careers route in the future. Typically, mentors meet with their mentees monthly for up to one hour either face to face or remotely. If parents have some spare time and would like to help one or more of our youngsters by offering them the benefit of their experience, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Your questions answered concerning the virus

Understandably parents become concerned if their child suddenly has a fever or cough. The following flow charts hopefully will help you in your deliberations.

<http://www.sflt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Covid-Symptoms-at-Home-flow-Chart.jpg>

<http://www.sflt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Quick-reference-guide-Covid.jpg>

Survey

As we are moving towards the end of the first full week back, we would like your views concerning safety and how well we have been communicating with you. It will only take a few moments of your time but will be very helpful for us. The link is here

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Jta5u-xrUkyABXCpN0BmKVETy9_2Jy1Onq-kze1FFfURUIMSVFHMUVIQjZaQjJWMTVPWEJSM0VaTy4u.

Masks/visors

There are times during the day at our two secondary schools when it is impossible to avoid one year cohort or 'bubble' crossing another and in that instance, large groups find themselves momentarily together. There are only a minimal number of times when this happens in each school but is nonetheless concerning for those involved.



We are monitoring the situation closely because it might be necessary in the future for both the staff and the pupils to wear either masks or visors in communal areas.

The start and end of the school day

As you know the pupils are entering the school in a staggered fashion to ensure safety. On occasions, parents are trying to talk to teachers whose overriding task at these times is to ensure the safety of the pupils. It would therefore be appreciated if that when contact is needed, members of staff are able to phone home or engage in a Teams meeting as opposed to speaking face to face. We realise that this can be inconvenient but your understanding would be appreciated during these uncertain times.

On a similar note, although it is not remarkable that parents congregate and talk with each other at the school gates, please appreciate that this is starting to spread alarm at some of our schools. Adults are being regularly told to keep their distance in school and it would be nice if that could happen at the school gates too.

Next steps

Please spare a moment to complete the survey and then enjoy the rest of the week and weekend.

Nikki King OBE and Andy Reese CEO











