

Trentham Academy

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5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that the UK Government have published guidance for schools under new national restrictions which came into force today, Thursday, 5th November. The guidance can be found via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-early-years>

Schools continue to remain open for all children and young people as they have since the start of the autumn term for the duration of the national restrictions. Exceptions relate to:

- Children or staff who are classed as extremely clinically vulnerable who have received letters advising them to remain at home.
- Under updated guidance, after school clubs will cease for the duration of national lockdown, with the exception of provision already in place for child care.
- Off site trips and visits will not take place during national lockdown, and until further notice.

Whilst we remain fully committed to keeping our Academy fully open to all year groups, we must also ensure that we can do so effectively and safely, and this does require an ongoing review and consideration of staffing levels. With this in mind, I write to advise you of the risk mitigation steps we have put in place with due regard to any reduction in staffing levels we need to respond to regarding day to day management of:

- 1. The number of clinically extremely vulnerable staffing having to work from home if they have received the letter advising them of the need to do this.**
- 2. Staff having to self-isolate if needed, in line with national test, track and trace or in cases of staff themselves displaying symptoms of Covid 19..**
- 3. Staff absence levels reported at any time, relating to non-Covid reasons.**
- 4. Availability of agency/supply staff to support cover as required.**
- 5. Ensuring essential cover regarding safeguarding and inclusion, First Aid and Site and Premises – Health and Safety.**



Should a situation arise whereby we do not have sufficient staffing to support full, *safe* opening of our Academy, the decision will be made to partially close to one or more year groups and we will advise parents immediately with regard to details of a partial closure.

Where this is required, year groups affected by a partial closure will move immediately to a remote learning timetable and will be fully supported in learning at home so that their education provision is not adversely affected.

We will provide as much notice as is possible with regard to any necessary partial closure, and we sincerely hope that we do not need to implement this step at all. However, we ask for your continued understanding and appreciation that we need to keep this under constant review and may need to act swiftly in response to identified need, in order to safeguard the safety and well-being of all our students, staff and community.

Our Covid 19 Secure Risk Strategy is available on the Academy website and is regularly updated with regard to any changing guidance. We will continue to keep this updated with all updated guidance from the UK Government and Public Health England.

I hope you all stay safe and well and, on behalf of all our staff and Governors, I sincerely thank you all for your ongoing support at this time.

Yours sincerely



Mike Whittingham
Headteacher

