



Southmoor Academy

ASPIRE • ACHIEVE • ENJOY

Wednesday 9th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

First of all, a huge thank you, both to you and your children for all your support over the last week and a half. Preparing the school for a safe re-opening has been a huge undertaking, and staff have worked tirelessly all through the summer - from timetabling, to planning a catch-up curriculum, to organising cleaning rotas - but it would all have been for nothing if we hadn't had such fantastic behaviour from the pupils as they returned. They have been a credit to you – listening carefully, and taking the new restrictions seriously.

Of course, as we go, we learn more and more each day about how to make the process as smooth and safe as possible. As such I would reiterate a simple but very important point – it is really important that pupils arrive at their allocated time, but not significantly earlier. The year-group bubbles each consist of around 200 students, so this really helps us maintain their integrity as they enter the school.

It is also important that we are clear on why it is we have asked pupils to wear face-masks on the corridor and in communal areas. We are of course not yet in a local lockdown, but there is still enough of a concern in Sunderland about rising cases that we believe it is right to take pre-emptive action. As ever, our approach is about exercising caution and acting responsibly to prevent any possibility of further local spread, or further local restrictions. Similarly, we have asked some students to isolate this week. Again, we have exercised caution, so you can be sure that if we have not asked your child to isolate, there is no need for them to do so.

The most important message for you to hear is that even while Public Health England is still adjusting to the opening of schools and dealing with a backlog of cases, we will not hesitate to act in the best interest of your children and our community as a whole.

Thanks again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss T Garner
Headteacher

Mr S Wright
Vice Principal