



Friday 11th September, 2020.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to thank you for your support over the last week, one which has been strange for pupils and staff alike. As you know there have been a huge number of logistical changes at the school to not only ensure that everyone remains as safe possible, but also to ensure that we adhere to guidance issued to schools by the Department of Education.

We took a stance that our approach would be to undertake actions that would allow for the safest possible operation throughout the academic year, regardless of the particular level of infection at any given time. We are aware that the infection rates across Warrington have increased significantly in recent days and whilst this is a concern for us all, we're confident that whilst it's impossible to deliver a 'no risk' environment, our actions will help to mitigate the potential spread of infection.

We are aware that some of our actions are perceived to be overly cautious by some, but we are also acutely aware of our responsibility to not only minimise any potential spread of infection in school but across the local community. Now, more than ever, it's important that we support each other and think particularly about vulnerable members of our community – many of whom are family members or friends of our pupils – who could be at risk of severe illness should they contract COVID-19.

Pupils have shown an excellent attitude towards the changes and demonstrated a mature understanding of the need for the mitigating actions that we've taken. I'd like to congratulate them for their efforts across the week, not only in adhering to the changes but also towards their studies. They've arrived back at school with an exemplary attitude towards their progress, demonstrating the qualities necessary to be successful.

As you know, our learning scores system allows us to analyse the levels of engagement of both groups and individual pupils across the school. It's analysis of this data that gives us confidence in our belief that the levels of engagement across the school remain high across all lessons. This week has been no exception with over 99.5% of all learning scores across demonstrating at least good attitudes to learning.

We know there have been some issues relating to school buses. I want to assure parents that when pupils are leaving school we are ensuring that pupils are wearing masks before they board the bus. Pupils with medical conditions are exempt from the mandatory wearing of masks as they would be on public services. When pupils arrive at school, any pupil not wearing a mask is challenged, but this has only been the case with a handful of pupils in recent days. We have already taken action against some pupils who have displayed behaviour below our expectations and, for some, this has meant the withdrawal of the school bus service. We would hope that pupils understand the importance of the need to conduct themselves in line with our expectations so as not to disrupt the journey of other pupils, but also to maintain safety precautions.

We also know that there have been some of the bus services that have arrived late to stops on the route, we have alerted to Warrington's Own Buses to our concerns and continue to work in collaboration with them.

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THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH





It has been fantastic to see our outstanding young people back at school this week and whilst there are many logistical changes to get used to, once pupils arrive at the classroom the fundamental process of learning hasn't changed. Staff have enthused about the attitude pupils have displayed and are thrilled to be back in the classroom helping them to make progress. It's been an important reminder of why we love our job so much.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



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