



Thursday 15 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your loved ones are well. As we come to the end of the first half term of this extraordinary school year, I am writing to update you on a number of aspects of life across our Catholic Multi Academy Trust schools.

I would like to begin by thanking you for the way in which the overwhelming majority of you have quickly and supportively adapted to the new measures we have had to put in place to make our schools as COVID-secure and safe as they can be. Our school leaders and I fully appreciate that this has caused some, inevitable, inconvenience in relation to things like dropping off and picking up your children at some of our schools; again, thank you for your patience and understanding.

At the time of writing I can report to you that we have had a total of 33 positive cases of COVID-19 across 14 of our schools. To give you perspective on this, we have a total of just under 10,000 people – pupils and staff – across our 21 schools. Very thankfully, none of these cases has been serious enough to warrant hospitalisation and, most importantly, there has been no evidence of transmission between pupils in **any** of our schools; in other words, where we have had to send groups of pupils or “bubbles” home because of a positive case, **none** of those pupils have then tested positive. This is obviously reassuring from the point of view of our risk assessments and the way in which our staff are managing the situation in the schools but, clearly, we will remain highly vigilant on this issue, taking nothing whatsoever for granted.

Many of you have been kind enough to take the time to express your support for the work of our teachers, support staff and school leaders of late. They are working incredibly hard to provide high quality learning both for the pupils in front of them, and those isolating at home. It is fair to say that “going the extra mile” has become a standard way of working in our schools. I am sure that you will appreciate that all of this is taking significantly longer to plan and deliver than would normally be the case. To support staff with this, I want to inform you today with as much notice as I can, that we are introducing an additional staff training day on **Monday 4 January 2021**. All of our schools will be **closed for all pupils** on this day, but remote learning will be set for them to do at home. This time will be used by all staff to prepare for the term ahead, again ensuring that our schools are ready to provide for pupils should they have to have periods of time at home. Please note that this day is *in addition to* the training day which is already in the calendar for Friday 29 January. I thank you in advance for your understanding on this.

Unit 5, Charnwood Edge, Syston Road, Cossington, LE7 4UZ
Tel. 0116 296 8171
Company No. 08090890



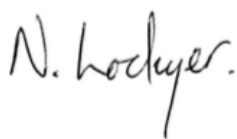
If your child or any of your children who attend our schools should test positive for COVID-19 over the half term break, **please DO NOT call the school** as the message may not be picked up. Instead, **please call 07934 583009**. Please note that this phone number may go straight to answerphone, but it is checked very regularly so leave your contact details clearly as well as –

- Your child's name
- Their date of birth
- The school they attend and where it is (we have four pairs of schools with the same name within our Trust)
- The date on which they first showed symptoms, and the date on which they tested positive

We will share this information with the school concerned, and we will also act as a link for the NHS 'Test and Trace' procedure if this is needed.

Finally, in these anxious and uncertain times I would like to close with a line from our Trust prayer: "Pour forth your light upon our schools, and take away any darkness which covers us". Let us ask the same for our local communities, our country and our world.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Lockyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Neil Lockyer
Chief Executive Officer