



3rd November 2020

Dear Parent

I hope you and your family are keeping well. I know this dreadful pandemic has taken its toll on many of you; both in terms of health and its impact on jobs. The uncertainty for the future is also causing a lot of stress. Although the help we can offer might be limited, please be assured we will do all we can to help you during these difficult times. Please get in touch if there is anything we can do to support you or your children.

You will, I am sure, be preparing for the next national lockdown starting on Thursday. Some of you may also have seen there is a debate in some quarters about whether schools should be included in this lockdown. At the time of writing, the government have issued no further, specific guidance to schools, other than the general statement which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

The guidance clearly states that schools will remain open. To the best of my understanding, the people favouring school closures do so on the grounds it will reduce the overall transmission rate, not because of the risks to children and young people. Both main political parties and the senior medical advisers all advocate schools remaining open because the risks to children from closure are greater than remaining open. For what it is worth, I support this view.

We cannot eliminate the risks of catching COVID entirely. However, I can assure you we are doing everything in our power to reduce the risk of transmission. We have maintained high levels of cleaning, we supervise pupils carefully and have not hesitated to send pupils home when somebody has tested positive for COVID. We will continue to do so and will continue to make the health of our pupils and staff our first priority.

Young people and children thrive on contact with their peers and the chance to learn face to face. Our staff have produced some brilliant online resources and many have become adept at delivering online lessons. We will continue to do so when pupils or staff have to isolate. We still believe face to face learning is the best experience. Preparing the online resources also places an extra burden on staff and there is a limit to how much can be done. I therefore ask that you continue to send your child into school – unless he or she has to isolate or has another illness.

The data from yesterday suggests the vast majority of you agree with this view and attendance remained high. Thank-you for your support. We will continue to apply the same rules regarding attendance during the national lockdown. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#attendance>

Please note, in particular the statement about the connection between good attendance and high academic performance. In terms of all the data we collect in school, the correlation between good attendance and academic performance is one of the strongest.



08452 415175



SHARE Multi-Academy Trust,
c/o Shelley College, Huddersfield Road,
Shelley, Huddersfield, HD8 8NL



info@sharemat.org



www.sharemat.org



We do have a small number of pupils who cannot attend school because of medical advice. We will, of course, offer as much support as we can. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if your child is in this situation and help has not been forthcoming.

It is particularly difficult when we do not know how long the pandemic is likely to last and what other restrictions we may face in the future. All we can do is take each day as it comes and do the best we can. I cannot promise we will get it right every time but I can assure you we will continue to do our best for your child.

Yours sincerely



John McNally
CEO

