



Mr G Panayiotou – Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

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Our Ref: GP/NF

26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to thank you for your continued support over this term. I have been incredibly impressed with the way that pupils have conducted themselves upon the return to school. Today, we handed out almost 700 headteacher certificates to pupils who have not received any behaviour logs, have attended every day (exemptions made for Covid related illness and self-isolation) with all of their equipment and in the correct uniform. Well done.

Lateral Flow Testing

For those pupils taking part in lateral flow testing, the Department for Education have asked that families continue to test twice per week over the Easter holiday and on Sunday 11th April, the day before we return to school. We have received an additional delivery of LFTs so that we can continue to distribute these to families over the next half term. If you would like to take part in lateral flow testing, and have not already done so, please sign the consent form in your child's planner and watch the training video on the academy website, your child will then be issued with lateral flow tests after the Easter break.

Reporting a Positive Covid Test

If your child tests positive over the Easter holiday using either an LFT or PCR test, please email the academy using admin@castlefordacademy.com as well as the NHS test and trace service. We will then contact any in school close contacts (if your child was in school within 48 hours of feeling unwell/receiving a positive test). Please remember that all positive LFT taken at home **must** be followed up with a PCR test.

Face Coverings

As of today, the academy has not received any further updates from the DfE regarding the wearing of face coverings in school. As a result, when your child returns to school after the Easter break, they must continue to wear face coverings in lessons and in communal areas, unless they are exempt. If any updated guidance is received during the Easter holidays, I will communicate this with parents/carers accordingly.

Free School Meals

Free school meal vouchers will be provided over the Easter holiday by the Local Authority for those who are eligible. Please contact them on 01924 305 061 for any queries relating to free school meals.

Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their schools or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is intended to ensure that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different. Please follow the link above to check if you are eligible to receive payments.

Calendar Dates

The academy has updated the calendar with some of the events that were cancelled due to the national lockdown. I have attached a copy to this letter. Please be aware that all events are subject to national restrictions.

Executive Headteacher

For the past eight years, myself and Mrs Cook have had the pleasure of working alongside each other at the academy to lead both staff and pupils in our roles as Headteacher and Associate Headteacher. In order to better reflect my role at the academy, the trust board have amended my title to Executive Headteacher at Castleford Academy (alongside my current title of CEO at Castleford Academy Trust). For parents and pupils there will be no change to the way in which the academy operates and how parents communicate with the academy.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Guest on his recent appointment to Deputy Headteacher at Castleford Academy, he will work alongside Mr Prinsep after the Easter break.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy Easter and hope you all have a lovely relaxing break.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Panayiotou
Executive Headteacher

