

Our Ref: SDG/lt

2 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were all pleased to welcome staff and students back to School this morning for the start of the half term. As you will know our Schools returned to full time education in September and have been able to provide a complete education for pupils throughout September and October, which was excellent. This meant that our Schools were able to make sure our young people stayed on track with their learning right across the age ranges. We were pleased with how our youngest pupils settled back into school life. We are also very pleased and reassured that our GCSE and A level students are also well placed, with our teachers feeling confident that, at the present time, all is in hand.

As we know from the Prime Minister's briefing on 31st October 2020, there are concerns nationally about rising infection rates and this is beginning to impact on us more in Shropshire now as well.

We are pleased that the Government have rightly prioritised keeping education going, as a second national lockdown starts on Thursday. What this means for our Schools is, to a large extent, that it will be continuing with the 'new normal' and systems we already have established.

As you know, we already have in place the full range of safety measures, including mask wearing in public spaces in our Secondary Schools, and by adults when not in their 'bubbles' in our Primary Schools. Thank you to our Primary School parents for adopting mask wearing as you pick up and drop off children in your carefully staggered timings. This is an important new aspect of our Risk Assessment and we thank you for your help.

There are a small number of other changes that we have put into place to align with the Government's new guidance:

- Primaries who have wrap around care will need to reduce their offer for the period of the second lockdown. Wrap around care can only now be used for parents who have to attend work.
- Any after school/catch up activities will be largely restricted to being run by our school staff.
- A very small number of staff will be deployed to work from home, for example if they are clinically extremely vulnerable. There may be some changes to staffing for our pupils in some classes.
- Similarly, a very small number of families may have been contacted by their Headteacher to discuss and update medical arrangements. We anticipate there may be further information on this area and Headteachers will update relevant parents in due course.

We are very pleased that all of our Schools now have very clear Distance Learning Plans in place. This should offer parents and pupils some reassurance that if our local situations change or if individuals or Shropshire pupils have to work from home temporarily, that education can continue. We are all hoping that we will not have to use Distance Learning too often, but if we need to we will be ready.

CEO

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Schools' Partnership

Finally, all our Schools have updated their communication systems for families relating to Covid 19. If you need to inform your school about a Covid 19 matter, or if you have a Covid 19 query and this is out of hours, please email:

Oldbury Wells School: covid.support@oldburywells.com

Church Stretton School: covid.support@csschool.co.uk

Alveley Primary School: covid.support@alveleyprimary.co.uk

Castlefields Primary School: head@castlefields.org.uk

Stokesay Primary School: covid.support@stokesayprimary.co.uk

St Leonard's Primary School: covid.support@stleonardsprimary.co.uk

Can I take this opportunity to thank our families for their ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Godden
CEO
TrustEd Schools' Partnership