

3 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continuing support during these difficult times. Throughout all of this, our schools have gone above and beyond to ensure that our buildings remain as safe possible, that quality educational provision continues (be that face to face or remotely) and that our children's and staff health and wellbeing remain at the centre of our decision-making process. It has been an exceptionally difficult and emotional time for us all but, it has been made easier by your support and by how well all our staff and students have responded to a great deal of change.

I am sure you are all preparing for the next national lockdown which starts on Thursday. As of today, the government have issued no further guidance to schools, other than the general statement which can be found below:

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

The guidance clearly states that schools will remain open because the risks to children from closure are far greater than those they face by remaining open. I can assure you that we are doing everything in our power within our schools to reduce the risk of transmission. We have maintained high levels of cleaning, employed additional daytime cleaning staff and implemented the full range of preventative measures. We supervise students carefully and do not hesitate to send staff or students home if they test positive for COVID-19 or display symptoms.

Our staff have developed some brilliant approaches to remote learning and many have become experts at delivering online lessons. We still believe however, that face to face learning and direct instruction as part of a quality curriculum is the best experience for our young people. Young people thrive on and develop from social interaction which is such an important part of the school day. I therefore ask that you continue to send your child into school – unless he or she has to isolate, has another illness or a medical condition which prevents them from attending school.

We obviously 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 for our staff, students and our communities. This will likely be causing many people a lot of stress and some families may be facing additional difficulties as a result. Although our offer of help may be limited, please be assured we will do all we can to help you during these difficult times. Please get in touch with your school if there is anything we can do to support you or your child.

Yours faithfully



Bev Matthews
CEO
Minerva Learning Trust