

9 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As this is our first full week back at college, I am writing to offer a general update on how things have progressed to date, as well as providing some concise clarification on the role schools and colleges are currently playing (outside of educational issues) in our journey back to normality.

Firstly, and most importantly, we were delighted to welcome all our pupils at the start of this exciting academic year; we are all grateful for the positive start we have made with your support. We have spent some time inducting our new starters. Talking about our mission, our systems and what support we can offer. A useful starting point for more information is our website, and more specifically, our **induction guide** which can be found here: <https://sixth.trinitymat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Student-Induction-Guide-2021-22.pdf>. However, for Year 12 parents we also have an opportunity to share more information with you via our **Year 12 Parental Conference**, which will take place via **Zoom, on Thursday 23 September at 17:00**. Within the conference, we explain how things work at TSFA, how we will support students and share ideas on how students can be successful in their 6<sup>th</sup> Form journey. It is also an opportunity for you to ask questions and meet some of the key staff within the building (virtually). Our Personal Progress Tutor team will be making phone calls to all of our Year 12 parents over the next two weeks; to introduce themselves and to answer any immediate questions.

I also thought it would be helpful and timely to set out what to expect from the academy in relation to the current COVID-19 guidance. Please forgive me if you are aware of all this and it seems like repetition; however, I know that it can be difficult to keep abreast of all the latest guidance.

As a school, the following operational changes have been made in line with the guidance issued by the government:

- 'Bubbles' in college are no longer required; we are not implementing these this year.
- Face coverings again are no longer required, so we are not implementing the use of them this year. However, it is highly recommended that if your child uses public transport to get to college, then face coverings should be used.
- Social distancing is no longer required, although we are asking both staff and pupils to use common sense in communal areas and corridors, where there is high footfall.
- As you may be aware, colleges no longer are being asked to perform 'contact tracing' as this function has been transferred to NHS Test and Trace. If applicable, it will be NHS Test and Trace that would communicate any relevant information to families going forward.
- In terms of pupils or staff with either symptoms or a positive lateral flow test, then the college will continue to isolate the individual and send them home and recommending they seek a confirmatory PCR test. Taking the PCR will mean NHS Test and Trace will be in contact if the test was positive; the college would therefore not be providing information on these cases to parents. If the PCR test was negative, then the pupil or member of staff will be able to return to college.
- The college has put in place an outbreak management plan, available via the college website. This has been produced in collaboration with local public health teams and allows us to temporarily reintroduce some of the measures we had in place previously (if an outbreak were to occur). The plan allows us to step up measures, as well as step the measures down when appropriate.

As you can see, we are working as an academy in collaboration with colleagues in public health, local authorities and parents to ensure we maintain the safe environment we have come to expect of a Trinity academy.

Thank you again for your support in making the start to the year a great success.

Yours sincerely

M Fitzsimons  
Principal

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