



## APT COO Independent School

14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are now in the final week of our first half term, I thought it timely to write to you and update on a few important matters relating to our school and our young people. I have spoken to most of you on the phone, which has been incredibly encouraging and I have passed on all the positive feedback and the areas where you feel we can improve, I will continue to do this at least once every half term.

The news at the moment is dominated by the national and regional picture of rising cases of Covid-19 and a testing system which has been struggling to keep up with demand. We continue to keep a close eye on local and regional developments and use this intelligence to inform a weekly Covid Contingency meeting. Myself, the School Governors and our Chief Executive are of the same opinion that we will continue wherever possible to keep all of our school sites open for as long as possible. The continuity provided for our learners and their families remains at the forefront of our decision making.

### **Enhanced Health & Safety measures**

Our learners have been really supportive of the new measures we have put in place, we are managing the 'bubble' at each site and keeping any kind of crossover to an absolute minimum. The decision has been taken to only meet face-to-face with visitors where absolutely necessary and meet via Microsoft Teams wherever possible, this includes meetings with parents/carers and our own school related meetings. We have appointed a cleaning champion who constantly reviews the cleaning protocols and stock levels at each site and the team are implementing this advice and guidance.

### **Contingency plans**

In the eventuality that we either have to close a site due to a positive case or all sites being closed within renewed lockdown rulings, we are planning to keep learning 'alive' through a variety of online platforms. The team are busy making sure the learners are able to access these platforms during school time, to iron out any teething troubles and build a degree of familiarity with the online learning. We will send details of these learning platforms to parents/carers and support the whole family should the need arise. The content will need to be accessed via a smart phone/tablet, PC or laptop. Please feel reassured that all teaching and learning and engagement will be delivered safely and with your inclusion too.

Pastoral care, and safe and well checks will be included, in some cases that may be all that is required, each bubble now has a mobile phone, you will be able to contact a member of the bubble team at any time.

- **Botany Avenue:** 01623 629 902 **Mobile:** 07907 302 206
- **North Farm House:** 01623 237 170 **Mobile:** 07738 647 619
- **Cameleon Lodge:** 01623 232 282 **Mobile:** 07793 472 465

A reminder that our text number can be used at all times for quick and confidential communications, the number is: 07860 027 568. I am aware that parents have found the school texting service very useful for quick messages perhaps en route to school alerting the team of any concerns.

### **In the event of your child displaying symptoms or testing positive**

I have included a document to support you in your decision making when it comes to 'Should I send my child to school?' which provides advice on whether to keep your child off school or not and how to access support and medical advice.

If you do have a Covid related reason for keeping your child off school, we ask that you inform us as soon as possible by phoning either myself or the admin team through our main number 01623 629 902, we can then make a decision as to what follow up action is required on behalf of the school and the related 'bubble'. We will also need to be informed of any Covid test results, again it is important that we are contacted straight away and informed of the result.

Our own action within the school responding to a learner displaying symptoms will be to immediately reassure, isolate and continue to support the individual throughout. Contact will be made with the parent/carer to arrange a collection point from school. We will then support you to follow the isolation guidelines and recommend that a test is completed, only individuals that display the symptoms associated with Covid should seek a test.

### **Uniform and winter wear**

As mentioned in my previous letter we have consulted with learners and families and for those who have chosen to wear a uniform we are now in the process of ordering. The uniform will be a practical style that compliments the indoor and outdoor school activities. I will be in touch soon with expected delivery dates.

As it does get wetter and colder it would be beneficial for your young person to bring a jacket/overcoat with them. Added to this a pair of outdoor boots, wellies or waterproof

shoes will also be beneficial when attending school, these can be left at school if needs be. Personal coat pegs have been made with the learners during this half term.

### **Thank You**

I would like to thank you for your trust, understanding and ongoing support in these testing times, I look forward to talking to you all again soon. If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter or would like to chat please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely,



**James Wilson**  
**Head of APTCOO Independent School**  
**Telephone: 01623 629 902**  
**Mobile: 07880 715 612**