



Ref: PCD/KC

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As the first full term draws to a close, I thought it would be a good opportunity to update our parents and carers regarding the current picture here at Louth Academy and identify some points for your consideration over the Christmas break.

### **Covid-19 Coronavirus Update**

All procedures that have previously been published are still in force in the Academy, with year group 'bubbles' in place and regular routines for washing and sanitising hands. Face coverings are mandatory in all communal areas of the Academy. I would ask that parents/carers continue to emphasise to your children the importance of following the procedures and maintain as much distance from others wherever possible, in the hope that we can continue to keep all staff and students safe when we return in January. This is especially important when students are on their way to and on their way home from school, as there may be opportunities for year group 'bubbles' to be compromised.

### **Louth Academy Attendance**

Following a most unusual start to the year, I am pleased to be able to say that student attendance levels at the Academy have been very good. This is very pleasing, especially considering the difficult and ever-changing circumstances in which we are operating. I would like to thank parents and carers for their commitment to their children's attendance, which, as we know has a direct impact on their achievement. Although attendance has been good, we are still experiencing a small number of issues in the reporting of student absence to the Academy. Please remember that parents/carers must notify the Academy on each day of any absence – for example, if their child is unable to attend due to ill health – by 8:55am or as soon as practically possible by telephoning the Academy Attendance team or through the My Ed app.

### **Uniform**

I was pleased to welcome our new Year 7 students to the Academy in September and it was a great pleasure to see the students from years 8 to 11 return to the Academy full time. The vast majority are smartly dressed in the correct uniform and my Pastoral staff will be liaising with parents/carers to address the small number of non-compliant students. Please can I direct parents to the Academy website for detailed information on the uniform requirements, particularly with reference to trousers, which need to be tailored, not tightly fitted and full length ie not cropped at the ankle.

### **Bus Transport reminder**

It is expected that all secondary students using school transport, of any sort, will wear a mask to and from school unless there is a medical reason for not doing so. This must be for the duration of the journey and the bus companies reserve the right to refuse travel to any student who does not follow the strict protocols.

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### **Charity Events**

We have this term undertaken two charity events at Louth Academy, one national and one local. We supported the 'Save the Children' Christmas jumper day and raised £478 for this national event. The students and staff looked great in their jumpers and brought a smile to many faces on the day. We have also collected a large quantity of food for the food bank at Louth's Community Larder. Thank you to all parents/carers, staff and students who have generously donated to this cause. The proceeds from our non-uniform day on Friday 18 December 2020 will also be helping to fund their work in the future.

### **Covid-19 Safety**

Please can I thank you all for your understanding and continued support this term. It has been fantastic to welcome back all students on a full-time basis at Louth Academy and this would not have been possible without positive parental/carer engagement. Please continue to encourage students under your care to follow the full range of government guidelines over the Christmas period. Following government guidance will be crucial in preserving the health of all the students and yourselves and will help in facilitating the Academy to remain open. We have strict protocols in place within the Academy to protect the students and staff, but it is essential that during the Christmas holiday, students continue to socially distance, follow the rule of six, frequently wash or sanitise hands and wear face coverings where appropriate. If you can support in helping us to send this message to the students, I am sure that this will have a big impact on keeping the school fully open during this very difficult period.

### **Reporting a Positive Covid-19 test during the Christmas break**

If your child tests positive for Coronavirus, please report this directly to the Academy via our email [enquiries@louthacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@louthacademy.co.uk). Please note that the Academy is not required to take any further action if the onset of symptoms is over 48 hours since they last attended the Academy.

If your child tests positive and developed symptoms more than 48 hours after being in school, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace and inform the Academy by email. Please note that the Self-Isolation period has now been reduced from 14 to 10 days.

Please have an enjoyable Christmas break and continue to stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mr P C Dickinson  
Principal

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