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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very aware that many parents and carers have booked holidays for the first week of summer. Many of those holidays will probably come at significant expense. Since September 2020, the Academy has had to follow Public Health guidance on identifying close contacts and asking students to self-isolate. Based on case numbers within Sunderland there is a very real possibility that we will have to inform some students to self-isolate this coming week. Therefore, our consistent advice about testing and not attending the Academy if unwell is more important than ever. I would request that all parents, carers and students act upon the following very clear guidance:

- **Testing & Symptomatic Children** - If your child is symptomatic please book a PCR test immediately. Do not return to school until you have received the result of a PCR test. If positive, you will be told how long your period of isolation lasts. If the PCR result is negative, you can return to school.
- **Be Cautious Regarding Illness** - Do not send your child to school if they are unwell. If you need to self-isolate the school will support your decision to do so. This will be recorded as isolation on your child's record and does not count towards absence totals.
- **Testing at the Appropriate Times** - If your child is not symptomatic you should still ask them to take a lateral flow test. If the result is negative, they should come into the Academy. If positive, please book a PCR test immediately and inform us.
- **Notice to Self-Isolate** – Students under the age of 16 should not have the NHS App on their phones. **However, if contacted by Track and Trace and guided to self-isolate students should always act upon that advice.**

There has been media coverage regarding the removal of Covid restrictions from 19<sup>th</sup> July, this may well have given the impression that it is now possible to socialise more freely and that there is no issue within schools. We have been very fortunate to this point that our case numbers have been low in comparison to the difficulties that other local schools are experiencing, but we have not been immune to the same thing happening at FCA and the national picture regarding transmission and self-isolation amongst British schoolchildren is high.

Please follow the above advice to help us minimise the impact on the wider community and your families as we prepare for the summer break. Based upon the experience in Sunderland schools since late June, it is very important that parents and carers exercise real caution and follow the guidelines above.

We also need to make you aware that for the final week of term all of our dining staff have been asked to isolate after being contacted from Track and Trace. We will therefore only be serving warm and cold sandwiches and not any hot food. You may wish to send your child to school with a packed lunch for the remainder of the week.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Holder

Head teacher

