

Principal: Mark Woodhouse

Brandon Road  
Swaffham  
Norfolk  
PE37 7DZ

T: 01760 721480 E: [office@tnha.org.uk](mailto:office@tnha.org.uk) <http://tnha.org.uk/>

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Dear Parents/Carers

### Re: Post Half Term Update

I am conscious that the last whole academy communication we sent out was during half term and prior to the Government announcements at the weekend. As a result, I am writing to provide a short update in advance of the national lockdown that will come into effect from Thursday morning.

I had hoped that schools and academies would have had some specific guidance by now that I would be able to share with you but unfortunately, the Department of Education (DfE) has yet to issue this. In light of this, and as announced by the Government, I can confirm that we will continue to operate and be open as we have been since the start of the academic year when the lockdown comes into effect from tomorrow, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November. This will remain the case until any of the national guidance changes.

Within the academy we are continuing to reinforce messages with the students about how they can keep themselves and others safe, through regular hand washing/sanitising and remaining socially distanced from others, when in the communal/social areas of the academy. We are also reviewing all our arrangements in light of changing circumstances.

**Face Coverings:** There is still no further national guidance on face coverings for students in schools and academies. However, as my previous communication implied we want to encourage more of our students to wear face coverings whilst in corridors and communal social areas. Please can you encourage your son/daughter to bring an appropriate face covering into the academy so that they can get used to wearing them regularly. This is one of the areas that the DfE may make mandatory for students of a certain age, as has been the case in other parts of the United Kingdom.

**Refurbished Student Toilets:** Over the summer holiday, ATT financed the refurbishment of the two main student toilet blocks in the academy. These areas were in desperate need of work and what we now have are two very modern school toilet blocks. In line with lots of schools and academies, we are making these areas unisex facilities. The design and refurbishment of both blocks have been carried out to the required standard to facilitate this. Each cubicle has floor to ceiling doors and walls and can be secured from the inside to ensure privacy. In the current climate these toilets, like all the other facilities in the academy, are being supervised by staff at break times and lunchtimes so that we only allow a small and limited number of students in each area at any one time so that social distancing measures can be easily adhered to. This arrangement is currently in place to support the year group bubble set up, which we have implemented in line with guidance to keep students safe. Year 9 and 10 students will use these toilets in the first instance and the re-opening of the refurbished toilets in this way allows us to keep these bubbles more secure and students safer in the academy.

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**Walking to and from the Academy:** I have referred to this on previous occasions but with the new lockdown imminent, it would be great if I could have your support in reminding your children, if they walk to and from the academy each day, about certain expectations. We will reinforce with the students that they need to make sure that they try to adhere to social distancing expectations. Equally, they should avoid congregating in larger groups. This is not only to keep them safe but also to be mindful of other pedestrians who may be using the footpaths. There are also a number of our students who collect younger siblings from Swaffham Primary Academy who share our site. It has become clear that with the systems that Mrs Kaye and her team have needed to put in place for meeting and collecting students, that this area around the Primary Academy can feel and is getting quite congested in the evenings. Again, please can I ask that if your child needs to collect a sibling from the Primary Academy that they do so without taking their friends with them so that their staff can keep parents and children as safe as possible.

It is clear that we will face times that are more uncertain over the coming weeks. I will endeavour to keep you all updated with information as we receive it. We appreciate your support in helping to maintain some levels of normality and I hope that you and your families stay safe over the coming weeks and months.

Kind regards and keep safe.

Yours sincerely



**Mark Woodhouse**  
**Principal**