



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD

Company No: 7365778

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Dear Parents and Carers

Following the recent announcement from Boris Johnson, we have now received updated guidance on how schools should respond to the delay in the easing of lockdown. It is clear from the scientific evidence provided that the new variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible and has taken hold in some communities in the UK. We are seeing an increase in cases locally and this has already had an impact on a number of schools in the Trust. As such, we are looking again at the measures we have in schools and I thought it would be useful to remind you of some of these:

- 1) Pupils can move between classrooms, but must remain in bubbles for other activities.
- 2) Assemblies can take place, but these should be in bubbles.
- 3) Whilst residential trips can take place, they are limited to 30 places.
- 4) Events like school proms can take place in bubbles and if social distancing measures are observed.
Schools in the Trust will only be hosting celebration events in school buildings this year.
- 5) Transition events can only take place if bubbles are maintained. This means that there can be no mixing of school groups. **As a result of the most recent guidance, schools in the Trust will not be running face-to-face transition days this year in their usual format. Schools will hold virtual transition days instead and invite in groups of students as appropriate.**
- 6) Events like sports days can take place, but bubbles must be maintained and spectators must observe social distancing rules. **I have taken the decision that parents and carers will not be able to attend these events in school this year.**
- 7) Face coverings can be worn by children at any time in school, but staff and adults must wear masks if they are in communal areas.
- 8) Visitors to school sites must observe social distancing and wear face coverings.

It is again disappointing that we are not able to run the usual events in the school calendar, but we must adhere to the guidance from the Government to protect lives and support the NHS. As a reminder for us all, it remains important to follow social distancing protocols, room ventilation and ensure regular and thorough hand washing.

Testing for COVID-19 is still advised for all pupils of secondary age and staff working in schools. The tests should be conducted twice a week and kits for testing are available in schools.

In other news, I thought I would update you on some changes to key staffing positions in the Trust and also make you aware of some structural alterations to the organisation which take place from September. Firstly, congratulations to Ms Elizabeth Ennew who has been appointed as the Headteacher of Peasedown-St- John Primary School. Ms Ennew will be leaving one of the other Trust schools to take up this position and we will be filling her current Headteacher post by expanding the Executive Headteacher role of Mr Dan Turull. Mr Turull is currently Executive Headteacher of Farrington Gurney and Leigh-on-Mendip Primary schools.





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Mr Keith Howard has now taken up the Headteacher position at Writhlington Secondary School and Mrs Lynda Bevan has taken over from Mr Howard as Headteacher at St Dunstan's in Glastonbury. Mr Philip White has started his new role as Head of School at Hayesfield Girls' School and Miss Emma Yates has begun her work as Deputy CEO & Hub Lead, working initially to secure further improvements at Beechen Cliff and St Mark's in Bath.

Miss Yates will also be heading up our first 'hub' of schools. The hub model is designed to group schools together in a tight geographical area. The Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership will soon have 28 schools, 13,000 children and over 2000 staff and therefore a model that brings schools together with common issues or ones which are near to one another, makes sense as we continue to work towards our underlying vision - *that all children are entitled to attend a good or better school no matter where they live.*

The Bath Hub is our first group of schools which will work together on some common themes of improvement, whilst still benefiting from the support of the wider multi-academy Trust. Going forward, it is likely that we will develop hubs in other geographical locations such as Glastonbury and Yeovil.

I also wanted to congratulate all Year 11 and 13 students for their continued hard work which has seen them secure some very impressive Teacher Assessed Grades. We will soon be submitting these grades to the examination boards and will be required to evidence our decisions with assessment materials and work completed by students. It has been a very challenging time for these youngsters and I hope next year will see a further return to normality for them.

Finally, I wanted to draw your attention to the consultation we are running currently to take feedback again from parents and carers on the Trust Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) policy. This policy has been consulted on before and has not altered, but given the issues schools in the United Kingdom are facing with regards to unwanted sexualised behaviour, I felt it was important to raise awareness again of our policy and programme for educating children about appropriate relationships and the manner in which they behave towards one another. If you have any questions or comments on the policy, please do send these in writing to me via the Trust PA scrane@msnpartnership.com by Wednesday 30th June 2021. For information, all schools have further information about their Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) programmes on their websites. The RSE Policy hyperlink can be found at the end of this letter for review.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Alun Williams
CEO

For review:

[Relationships and Sex Education Policy](#)

