



2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your family have had a good summer, whether that has been spent close to home or further afield. It was a huge relief and a real joy to see the success of so many of our students in their 'examinations' over the summer. These young people have done extraordinarily well to cope with all the disruption they have faced and their grades have been hard won. We now wish them well in the next phase of their lives whether that is in our own brilliant sixth forms, at a college or university or joining the world of work.

Over the summer a lot of work has been going on planning for the new term, one we hope will be less disrupted by COVID than those over the last 18 months. We are delighted to have been able to carry out significant building improvement work to several of our schools over the holiday period and look forward to children and staff being able to enjoy these improvements to their facilities. Some will perhaps go unnoticed like the new boilers at Rossett Acre Primary and the new Combined Heat and Power Unit at Temple Moor High. Other improvements will be more obvious such as the refurbishment of the early years room at Western Primary, the new visitor entrance area at Temple Newsam Halton Primary and the new ceilings and LED lights within classrooms at Coppice Valley Primary School. All of them show our continued commitment to giving all our children and staff the best possible working and learning environment.

Our teachers and support staff have also been at work planning for the new term and making sure that the curriculum in all our schools is exciting, well planned, and inclusive. I think we are all looking forward to getting back to more like 'normal' in schools and at work.

We are only too aware however that the pandemic has not gone away, and we will still need to be very careful if we are to avoid serious disruption to our schools. You will hear from your child's school directly about all the start of term arrangements, but I wanted to mention a few key points.

- All our schools will continue to be vigilant in terms of the basic COVID control measures, hand washing, good nasal hygiene, ventilation etc. You can expect reminders regarding this from your child's schools.
- The updated government guidance is being followed and this does mean that there will much less focus on 'bubbles' and separation. Schools may however still choose to keep in place some measures to limit mixing if they feel that is appropriate for their setting. This will not get in the way of the delivery of the full curriculum offer.
- Contact tracing will no longer be carried out by schools, this is being done by NHS Track and Trace.
- Schools will continue to support the efforts of the local Public Health teams and call on them for advice when needed.

ALLIANCE LEARNING TRUST TEACHER TRAINING

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- Other control measures may be introduced if infection rates make this appropriate, this could include bringing back compulsory mask wearing in corridors and shared spaces, reintroduction of class 'bubbles' etc.
- All our schools will have updated risk assessments in place, checked by our Trust experts.

We are all really hoping that this new term can progress without disruption but we will need your support to do this.

I would ask that you please support the staff at your child's school in ensuring that we stay vigilant and follow any rules put in place to keep us all safe. As part of this it is still vital that you do not send your child to school if you think they may have COVID symptoms.

Testing for Covid at home will continue to be vital in ensuring we do not let the virus disrupt education again, make it part of your household routine. Can I ask that you continue to support this by completing twice weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device testing at home.

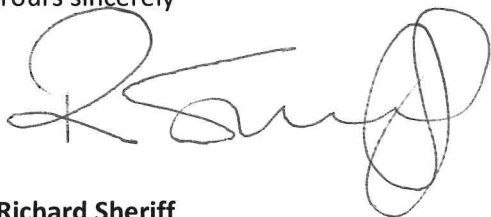
Each school in our Trust has a different context and may need to have different control measures at different times to other schools. Please understand that this is not inconsistency but schools working with the Trust to adapt to local needs.

With the vast majority of staff double vaccinated and many of our 16–19-year-olds now vaccinated at least once we are hoping that the risk of serious illness and disruption will be much lower but none of us know for sure. If the vaccine is offered to younger children we will do all we can as a Trust to make sure your children get access to this in partnership with the NHS.

I do hope that in future my communication with you can be more about the wonderful stuff going on in our schools rather than about COVID.

Very best wishes for the new school year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Sheriff', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Sheriff
CEO – Red Kite Learning Trust