

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of the most unusual term of my 28 years in teaching, even the most extraordinary year of my career, I feel that we can look back on all we have achieved as a school community with tremendous pride. Staff and students have adapted brilliantly to all of the changes that we have made here to ensure that the school environment is as Covid-secure as possible and have worked productively with their teachers over the past term, making very pleasing progress indeed. We have been so impressed by the resilience, determination and stamina of staff to succeed in the face of the current challenges.

We have been really pleased that attendance at school has been so high, well above the national average, and that we have been fortunate that we have had very few cases that have resulted in students having to work at home and self-isolate. As parents you should be proud of this and the part that you played in helping the nation combat Covid 19 and maintain the standards of education that your children deserve.

Testing in Schools

Earlier in the week it was announced that there would be mass testing in schools in the new year. Weekly testing should provide an extra level of reassurance and, crucially, rapid daily tests for students and staff who have been in contact with positive Covid cases which should reduce the need for self-isolation and the disruption this causes. We need to understand exactly what is expected, and how this will be staffed, and will be working on a plan over the next couple of weeks. Once we have these plans we shall let you know. In the meantime, please have a look at the [FAQs](#) that the government has sent out. We very much hope that the availability of rapid tests will help make next term less gruelling than the one that has just passed.

Notifying the school of positive Covid test results during the Christmas holiday

If the school is notified of a positive Covid case within our school community up to 23 December and your child is identified through contact tracing as being a close contact of the affected individual, then we will advise you of the need for your child to self-isolate for 10 days from the last point of potential close contact.

If you do have to notify the school of a positive test result for your child during the Christmas holidays, then please do so immediately using the email address covid19@carres.uk up until midday on 23 December. We need to know the date your child was last in school, the date the test was taken, the first date that your child experienced symptoms of Covid 19.

We will monitor the email address and we will be in touch with you (either the same day or the following morning, depending on the time of notification) to undertake any contact tracing required.

Summer Exams 2021 – Year 11 and 13 students

The examination boards have announced a series of contingency days in the summer beyond the end of the normal exam period for those students unable to take exams as a result of testing positive for Covid-19 or having to self-isolate. During this period, any student unable to take exams during the normal timetabled slot will have to take an alternative paper in order to qualify for certification.

The dates for these exams will be between 28 June and 16 July. Please ensure that your son or daughter is available to take exams during this period should it be required.

End of an Era

After teaching for 40 years, 18 of them latterly at Carre's, Mrs Diane Hickmore is retiring. She has been the Director of the Robert Carre Sixth Form since the RCT formed in 2015, having previously been the Head of Carre's Sixth Form. She joined the school in 2002 as a Biology teacher from The Minster School, Southwell. She was instrumental in bringing the two grammar schools closer together to work as part of the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form, and has influenced the lives of hundreds of young people through her outstanding teaching and an extraordinary knowledge of Higher Education, guiding students to next stage of their lives. We wish her every happiness in her next adventures in life and hope that she has the relaxing, enjoyable retirement that she so richly deserves!

And finally...

I would like to end by thanking you all for your incredible support over the past year. Your kind messages have sustained me and my colleagues during some very demanding times, reminding us of what a privilege it is for us to lead this fantastic community. You should never underestimate the impact that your positive messages have on the morale of staff. I wish you all a restful holiday and hope that you are able to share many moments of joy with your loved ones. One positive from this pandemic is that it has reminded us all of the importance of fellowship, friendship and community, of kindness and caring for one another and of the need to cherish and appreciate the time that we can spend together.

I look forward to seeing you all again in 2021 when school re-opens for staff on Monday 4 January 2021 and we welcome all students back to school on Tuesday 5 January 2021.

N M Law
Headteacher