



**“Be Inspired & Achieve Together”**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

This half-term has seen a relaxing of the Government rules and guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings. This has benefitted communication and interaction in lessons and throughout the academy and it has been lovely for students and staff to be able to communicate more easily.

Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant across the UK we have continued to see increased rates of absence from staff and students throughout this half-term and this has been experienced in other schools in our trust as well as across the County. When we have teachers absent from the academy our first response is to arrange for one of our own Cover Supervisors to lead the lesson. Our cover supervisors already know our students, our expectations and practices so this provides good continuity for students in lessons. Unfortunately, when all our cover supervisors have been allocated we then have to turn to external supply staff. We have our own preferred supply agencies and work hard to use a small pool of staff to cover.

This half term I am very pleased that we have managed our current level of staff absence and been successful in keeping the academy open to all year groups. I need to inform you however that there have been times when the level of staff absence was close to threshold and we had to consider closing the academy to particular year groups due to lack of teachers. If this were to happen in the future then we would have to prioritise keeping our youngest year group, Year 7, on site as well as year groups following GCSE and A Level courses in Years 10 to 13. I want to reassure you that we will continue to do everything we can to remain open for all students, however I need parents and carers of children in Years 8 and 9 to know that these would be the first year groups we would have to keep at home to access remote learning, should our level of staff absence grow any further.

A significant number of schools and academies across the UK, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City have already been forced to close at times to particular year groups. While I am pleased we have not yet been forced into this position I want you to know that we have drawn close this half term therefore I want you to be aware of which year groups would be the first to remain at home should circumstances change.

We have now reached the end of this half-term and I wish you and your families an enjoyable half term break and look forward to your children returning on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Can I please ask you all to take a moment during the break to support your child's learning and check their school bag before they return and ensure they have a fully replenished pencil case with a range of blue, black and green writing pens, coloured highlighters, pencils, an eraser, ruler and calculator. This will ensure they are well prepared for lessons on their return.

Thank you in advance for your support.

**Matt Robertson**  
Principal