



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff members,

Earlier this evening we held an Extraordinary Governing Board meeting with the Senior Leadership team to review the current Covid-19 situation and make decisions in the best interests of the Lonsdale community.

As you know, the Government is asking us to open our school on Tuesday, 5th January and indeed, we are committed to staying open for all our students as long as it is safe to do so. In the short term, these are the decisions we made and the changes we have agreed to implement from tomorrow onwards:

- The whole school risk assessment has been reviewed and now includes additional, mandatory PPE for staff members. More details of these changes will be communicated to all staff during our INSET day on Monday.
- We are increasing the amount of ventilation throughout the whole school by scheduling the opening of doors and windows on a regular basis. Whilst we will of course keep everyone safe and warm, we think it would be advisable to bring an additional layer of warm clothing to school with you. A Parent Governor will send parents and carers more information shortly.
- Our lunchtime arrangements are changing to provide extra protection for our secondary students and staff. North Bubble students will have their lunch in their class bubbles to reduce contact with others. South Bubble students will have their lunch in the dining room to increase social distancing for everyone.
- To ensure home school transport provides maximum safety at all times, the school has written to the Local Authority to confirm that sufficient testing is in place for all transport providers for their staff on a weekly basis.

The school will introduce testing but it will be available for staff and those students who can conduct their own test on the school site. At this point it is unclear whether we will be able to provide alternative testing arrangements for students and their parents should they wish to undertake the test themselves.

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We recognise that this a changing situation and there may be further directives from professional unions and Government departments, which could impose more changes. We want to reassure you that, provided we have a safe number of staff on site to meet all our health and safety regulations and considerations, we shall keep our school open for our students.

I understand that this is difficult time for all of us, but as always, everything we do and all the decisions we make will be in the best interest of students, staff and our families.

My very best wishes

Annemari Ottridge
Headteacher

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