



13 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher Update – w/c 13th September 2021

The last two weeks have been very busy, and the staff, pupils and community continue to be very welcoming and friendly. I am making progress in engaging with pupils, through virtual assemblies and I have been greeting pupils as they come into school and have visited many classes. It is great to see all our pupils settled into the new session and focusing on their schoolwork.

Changes to Covid Isolation guidance for pupils

As you, may be aware the current national guidance no longer requires whole groups of pupils to isolate if there is a confirmed case within the school. When we are made aware of any confirmed case by the local Health Protection Team, they will instruct me to send home a 'Warn and Inform' letter to groups of pupils who may have been associated with the confirmed case, which some of you may have received over the last few weeks.

Anyone who has been identified as a close contact will be contacted by Test and Protect and should follow their advice. This advice is usually to self-isolate and book a PCR test. If your child/ren is requested to do this, please can I ask that you inform the school of this so that absence can be coded appropriately. On receiving the result, please update the school on whether this result is negative or positive.

We have been asked to continue to encourage pupils S1-S6 to self-test twice a week using a lateral flow test and record all results accordingly, using this link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If you wish your child to receive test kits but have not yet given consent, please find a link to the consent form on our school blog <https://alfordacademy.edublogs.org/pupil-consent-form-for-covid-19-testing/>

Please remember that any pupil who feels unwell or displays symptoms of Covid should not attend school. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please confirm their absence with the school by phoning 019755 20430 prior to the start of the school day (option 1 to leave a message concerning your child's absence).

We have had several pupils who have been absent from school to go and get a PCR test. Please could you inform the school of the result of the PCR test, whether it is positive or negative.

School contact details

A reminder that the Alford Academy telephone number is 019755 20430 and the email address is alford.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. School office hours are 08:15-16:00 Monday to Friday.

Supporting Parents and Carers

Just a reminder that a range of support resources and advice can be found on our Supporting Parents and Carers Google Site. You can access this via the school website and school BLOG under the Parent tabs or via this link

<https://sites.google.com/as.glow.scot/alfordacademyparentcarer/home>

Online Safety Parent Information online event

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend our online event which will take place on Wednesday 15 September at 7pm. Please see email of 8 September 2021 for full details. This event can be accessed via this link [Click here to join the meeting](#)

School Uniform

It has been great to see the pupils back in school looking smart in their uniforms and ready to learn. I would like to confirm the following with regards to uniform:

Pupils can come dressed for PE on the days that they have it on their timetable, on the days that they do not have PE the expectation is that school uniform is worn. I would appreciate your support to continue to encourage the wearing of our school uniform throughout the school year, this is an issue that a number of parents have raised, and I hope that this clarifies uniform expectations.

Behaviour on Buses

I would also like to confirm the expectations around behaviour on buses:

- Face- coverings are to be worn on school transport.
- Pupils are to remain in their seats for their journey to and from school.
- Pupils should not be eating or drinking on school transport.
- No litter should be left on school transport.

School Improvement

As part of our School Improvement Plan, we will be sending out surveys between now and Christmas to gather parent/carers views. The focus of our first survey is Leadership of Change. We would appreciate if you could complete the attached survey, to inform our School Improvement Plan, which has been extended to Wednesday 15th of September. We will also be gathering the views of pupils, staff and wider stakeholders.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC3z9i2eHfSxGkhvnGFjNg5JUN0sxRjFEMIJUTTRDV1hQSEM0ODIzSklaOC4u

Changes to Alford Academy Senior Leadership Team

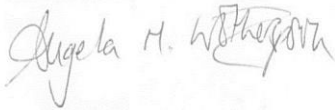
Mrs Lisa Lees - Depute Head Teacher, has secured a seconded post with Aberdeenshire Council for up to 23 months as a Quality Improvement Officer (Inclusion, Equity & Wellbeing). Lisa will start this post on 23rd of September 2021. We wish Lisa well and lots of luck in her new role and thank her for her hard work, dedication and fantastic care of our pupils and staff over the last 19 years, as Principal Teacher of Biology and Depute Head Teacher.

I can confirm that after a competitive interview last week, Mr Graham Scott has been appointed to the Acting Depute Head Teacher role and that he will start in this role on 23rd September 2021.

Next week we are recruiting a Principal Teacher of Guidance to backfill Mr Scott's substantive role and as this is progressed, I will keep pupils, parents/carers, staff and stakeholders informed.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of our parents/carers this session.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angela M. Wotherspoon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Angela M. Wotherspoon (Mrs)
Head Teacher