



SIR TOM FINNEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Ribbleton Hall Drive, Preston, PR2 6EE

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Headteacher Mr Shaun Jukes PGCE, BPhil (special education)

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21.10.2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with continued crossing of fingers that I write to you all. We have come to the final week of the first half term and so far we have not had any direct positive cases of Coronavirus within the student population or amongst the staff.

Naturally we have had some who have needed to self-isolate due to having signs or potential symptoms or having been in contact with someone or had a household member who had a positive test, but all tests have come back negative.

The fact that we have had no direct cases is remarkable as all around us we have seen schools having to close or partially close, including other special schools. Whilst there is an element of being very 'lucky'; the operational structures and risk assessments, cleaning routines and the fact that everyone is doing their utmost to be as careful and as safe as possible has also got something to do with it.

As a school, we are not naïve and have in place all the appropriate preparations and contacts for advice and support from Public Health, Lancashire County Council and the Dept. for Education, should we get a direct positive case and you will all be informed as soon as is practically possible as to the actions we need to take and the actions we will be asking of you and your child, to ensure everyone's health and safety.

To other matters; on the whole, our young people have settled well into school and the 'new' style of routines that classes have had to follow. Timetables are in place, subject lessons are being delivered, baselining and monitoring of progress has been established. Where necessary additional interventions are planned and many have benefited from our raised priority of supporting our students in dealing with their emotions, concerns and anxieties.



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The ways in which we are all having to work are very different and the reliance on using 'virtual' technology as a means of contact and communication will continue. This has proved very successful so far in the annual review process, whereby families and other professionals have been able to engage and participate using 'Zoom'. Using our class 'dojo' system is very beneficial for day to day contact (along with diaries). As well as Microsoft 'TEAMS' or 'SKYPE' for professional meetings.

Whilst it seems a little old fashioned contacting school by telephone is equally effective.

The half term break begins this week and for students starts from Friday 23rd October, with school staff engaged in a training day. To return on Monday 2nd November.

I wish to thank everyone involved in the school community for your support in these most challenging of times and look forward to seeing everyone safely return after the half term holiday.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Shaun Jukes'.

Shaun Jukes

Headteacher