

25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well three weeks into the new school year. I am writing to you to update you on developments at the school during this time of national crisis and to reassure you that your child is as safe as possible whilst with us.

As you are now all aware, we have changed from the Grove Academy to Springwell Harrogate, as we have moved from Delta multi-academy trust to the Springwell trust, a group of schools specialising in helping young people who have struggled in mainstream schools.

Springwell have put in a massive investment over the summer in rebuilding and modernising the centre, and pupils are now able to enjoy large, modern, well-ventilated classrooms. We are also in the process of modernising our computer and telephone systems. This has caused us some difficulties in communication and I apologise to those of you who have tried to contact us on the old school number. We are working hard on fixing these problems. As a result, **we have a new school office number: 01423 456001**. We are also in the process of updating and improving our website.

As a result of the pandemic, we continue to respond to changing government guidance to make the school as safe as possible for everyone. Our risk assessment is published online and regularly reviewed. I would like to highlight some key points:

- We now have four classroom bubbles where students stay within that room for the day to minimise the risk of cross-infection. This also means that if a child tested positive, only that class would need to isolate, thus keeping the school safely open for the other three ‘bubbles’.
- We have strict routines with sanitisation and cleaning, and so far all pupils have worked with us brilliantly to keep everyone safe. Please note that we cannot allow any visitor to enter the building without prior appointment.

- Since March, the teaching staff have developed a high-quality range of engaging online lessons. This means we can support students at home if necessary, and continue to educate your child in the event of another national lockdown.

It is our intention to keep our school open, as we did during the first lockdown and the Easter holidays. As the crisis develops, it may be that certain groups of students may have to isolate at home, but our ‘bubble’ system and mix of school and online lessons mean we can continue to offer support and education during this difficult and anxious time for us all.

We are aware that some families have struggled with access to personal computers; we are also aware that the DFE-supplied computers have not worked! Please contact us if you need any help or advice with getting online to access lessons.

As I have said before, we are continuing to transform into a new school model. I know many of you are worried about the future for your child. Please be assured, we are working hard on finding the right school or provision for all our current students. We are still waiting to hear from North Yorkshire County Council the date for the new Fair Access Panel (FAP) meetings in the Harrogate area.

The FAP meeting is part of North Yorkshire’s new educational system which they hope will speed up finding the right school for young people in our area. We hope that the first meeting will take place very soon and we will be able to contact you to arrange a transition for your child to their new school. Please be patient with us whilst we continue to work with the Local Authority in setting this up.

May I thank you for your continued support and understanding with our current restrictions and any future possible changes.

Yours faithfully,



John Warren,
Headteacher