



5th January 2023

Important Communication from the CEO

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the work we are doing in the academies and some of the plans for the next term.

Media Information around flu and scarlet fever

Over the last week, the media have been reporting about the above illness. If your child does show any symptoms, the academy procedures for notifying school still remain in place.

Symptoms to look out for:

The symptoms of scarlet fever can be non-specific in early illness and may include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. Within 48 hours, a characteristic pinkish-red, generalised pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. During convalescence, peeling of the skin may occur at the tips of fingers and toes and less often over wide areas of the trunk and limbs.

Cleaning Procedures:

Within all our academies, we have increased the cleaning procedures in order to be proactive in preventing infections. This will involve:

- Promotion of handwashing more frequently
- Lunchtime cleaning of work spaces and toilet areas
- Additional cleaning at the end of the day

As a Trust, we liaise directly with the local public health team and are monitoring any reported cases.

New Developments across Exceed

Across the academies we are developing a range of areas to enhance and improve our curriculum.

- All academies will be receiving an upgrade in broadband connectivity. We have been successful in gaining funding from the DFE for this project. This will improve the speed of the internet within the academies.
- All academies have created a new Reading Spine and the Trust has funded £10,000 per academy of new reading materials in order to ensure that our pupils have inspiring text to read and explore. We have also been enhancing the reading areas to ensure that they are enticing places to promote reading for pleasure.



- All academies have been refining their curriculum design model. We have been embedding opportunities to enhance future careers through our learning and to ensure that we promote learning through enquiry questions. We are fortunate this term to be working with Dr Debra Kidd (an experienced educational consultant) within our academies to deepen this learning and work with our subject leaders to implement this.
- Our subject leaders in computing have also been auditing the curriculum in order to develop further our delivery of knowledge and skills within this area.
- Our Music subject leaders are working with Paul Davies (Head of Doncaster Education Music Hub) to further develop our curriculum intent within this topic and plan opportunities for our pupils to work with highly skilled professionals across the country. We are currently planning a project to work with Opera North and parents will be invited to this event in the summer term.
- This term we are also working with Doncaster Arts on a project called 'Creative Classrooms'. This initiative involves working with drama professions to build confidence and communication skills. This project will take place in Year 3.
- We are also continuing with our sporting programme and there will be a range of tournaments for pupils to be involved in.

Learning across our academies is of such a high standard. I thoroughly enjoyed the digital newsletter and seeing the impact of the work being undertaken. This term, we will be sharing with you our curriculum design so you can see some of the experiences that the pupils have undertaken to build their knowledge and skills. It is exciting times within our Trust!

Hall Cross Academy:

Hall Cross will be joining Exceed on the 1st February. Hall Cross is the largest Secondary School in Doncaster and our vision and values align. Throughout last term, I have been privileged to work with leaders from Hall Cross and to see a range of teaching across key stage 3, 4 and 5. It is great to learn about different phases of education and to see the connection between different ages. I think it will support our development hugely and I am looking forward to all teachers sharing practice and working on our teaching & learning methods.

Finally, as always, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. The Christmas period was magical in our academies and I know parents, carers and wider families supported a number of fundraising events. The concerts and parties were a joy to see and it showed the level of confidence and enjoyment that our pupils are gaining from their learning. I'm sure you were very proud of your child or children and for me, it is just the most pleasurable part of my job!

Yours sincerely

B.A. Nixon

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CEO

National Leader of Education

