



<b>Our Ref</b>	MV/KB
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<b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Under the National Lockdown childcare and early years settings, schools and Riverside College will remain open.

Halton Council is committed to supporting childcare and early years settings, schools and the college to remain open.

This approach is based on our local intelligence and evidence from research which tells us that there is a much greater risk to the long term education and welfare of pupils if education settings were to close.

All of our childcare and early years settings, schools and the college have gone to great lengths to keep people safe throughout the pandemic and provide quality education. They have worked with the Council to respond quickly to positive Covid cases, identify close contacts and inform those who need to self-isolate.

It is also important to note that our local intelligence and investigations show that where students and staff have tested positive, infection appears to be from the wider community – not the school environment.

However, if your child is required to self-isolate, home learning opportunities will be put in place and I ask you to please encourage your child to continue with their learning where possible, to avoid any further disruption to their education.

School and college staff are committed to making sure that learning is available for all pupils - those attending in person and those who are self-isolating at home - however, this comes with its own set of challenges. Unlike earlier this year, teaching will continue on-site during this second lockdown. I therefore ask you to please be mindful of this and these added demands providing remote learning opportunities places on school and college staff, and to accept that there may be some limitations.



I also want to highlight the importance of following the latest Government restrictions and in particular highlight the advice on travelling to and from school or college, which must be done in a way that keeps everybody safe:

- Walk, cycle or scoot where possible
- Wear a face covering on public transport (unless exempt)
- Go straight home after the school or college day

Our children and young people have already lost so much learning and social contact this year, and for their sake it is vitally important that wherever possible we continue to keep our schools open.

We support calls for additional COVID-19 funding for schools in areas with high rates of infection to provide support with the additional costs of PPE, cleaning and supply staff, and to offer effective remote and catch-up learning.

Thank you for your continued and ongoing support for childcare, schools and colleges and within your local community.

Yours sincerely



Mil Vasic  
Strategic Director, People