



APTCCO
Independent School

Spring Term 1. 2022 Letter to Parents and Carers.



January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year from all of us here at APTCCO, we have returned to school and been absolutely blown away by our young people and how they have returned so energised and enthused to get going with the new term. I also want to thank you for your support on the run up to Christmas, as usual our young people have made fantastic progress during the last term with many of them challenging themselves beyond what we could have ever expected, myself and the team have been overwhelmed by what has been achieved.

The inclement weather we have had meant some of our learning has taken place inside, but that hasn't stopped us taking every possible opportunity to work outdoors when possible, and Forest School has remained a key weekly highlight for staff and learners alike. The learners have also thoroughly enjoyed making Christmas crafts and learning about Christmas traditions across the globe.

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Spring Term Learning

Where possible we aim to 'take learning outdoors' and learn through half termly based projects, these as I mentioned before are as much as possible seasonal and we move with the changing seasons to support the young people's understanding of living and learning amongst the changing seasons.

<p style="text-align: center;">Spring Term 2022</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Project-Based Learning based on Seasons:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Winter to Spring</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Preparing the farm garden for produce – field to fork</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Planting bulbs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Making planters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Creating pallet benches</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Observing growth and change (plants and animals)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Life cycle of plants and animals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Good to be Me – Personal growth and challenge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Online Safety</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Healthy Relationships/friendships (RSE)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Learner Led History Project: Ancient Egyptians</p>

Meet Jacob:



I'd like to introduce myself as the newest member to join APTCOO. I have had a varied career starting in the armed forces and since then I spent the last 7 years in youth work. During this time I have delivered the Princes Trust Programmes, this involved helping young people build their confidence, resilience, and then eventually supporting them to reach their full potential and a return to education or work. For the last 4 years I have also supported an individual who is hearing impaired as a befriender and mentor. I have completed my British Sign Language Level 1 and currently undertaking my Level 2 so that I can better support other hearing-impaired learners that need this. I have a passion for giving everyone equal opportunity to succeed and I hope to be able to do this alongside the great team here at APTCOO.

Jacob and fundraising

Jacob is taking part in The Sheffield Half Marathon on Sunday, 27 March 2022 and is fundraising for our school to further support our fantastic work. The focus for this fundraising event is to help improve our IT and sensory equipment, including, but not limited to a sensory projector and smart whiteboard, which will help improve our learners' education experience and opportunities.

If you would like to sponsor Jacob, that would be amazing and be much appreciated.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/aplacetocallourownltd?utm_id=1&utm_term=3Ve2wd45D

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School Covid Measures

We have returned to a slightly different arena this term than what we left from a Covid perspective; however, the team and the young people have made the slight changes to their routines, and we are once more fully functioning and thriving. As a school we remain ever vigilant to the changing rules and regulations that surround the pandemic and to ensure we

keep the school open, we continue maintain our cleaning and testing regime and will continue to do so until we are advised otherwise. I have spoken to all the parents and carers where we have changing circumstances in school, and I will continue to do so as we navigate through these uncertain times.

COVID Symptoms

The NHS is still recommending that people should look out for classic Covid symptoms:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Lateral Flow testing and isolation

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Those isolating may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period.

Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

First line communication

To communicate with us quickly and confidentially when you don't necessarily need to speak to us, we encourage you to use our secure texting service, the number is **07860 027 568**. I am aware that parents and carers have found the school texting service very useful this can be for attendance or positive LFD results that will also impact on attendance.

We will continue to provide regular updates over the coming days however, I ask that we all continue to work together to keep our school and our families and friends as safe as we can and therefore appreciate your support.

School Spring Term Dates

I appreciate that you may be planning forward for the coming months, where possible we aim to have the same term times as the schools throughout Nottinghamshire.

February half term: The last day of this half term will be **Friday the 11th of February**.

We will be open again on **Monday 21st of February**.

Easter Holiday: The last day of the Spring term is **Friday the 1st of April**. We will be Open for the Summer term from **Tuesday the 19th of April**.

Wider Curriculum: RSE

From January we have made the decision to follow the Department for Education's guidance for teaching 'Relationships and Sex Education'. We have always covered this though our 'Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning' but now feel this needs to be taught with some additional focus, to stay healthy and remain safe. The RSE content which is broken down into age-appropriate lessons covers healthy relationships, puberty, the law that underpins the safety of young people, online safety, and the importance of their physical health and well-being. With each of our learners careful consideration will be placed upon their level of maturity, and what aspects of this curriculum are most appropriate for their individual stage of development.

A letter will be emailed to you to give your consent, along with some example resources that we will be using. As always Michaela and I welcome any questions you may have in relation to what we are planning to deliver and how we intend on going about this.

Mobile Phones:

At APTCOO we treat the safety and welfare of our learners as paramount, we also recognise the rich benefits that technology brings to the classroom and learning. To that end our young people will be able to bring their phones in as they have done previously, however we will be encouraging our learners to keep their phones away in their bags, unless they are being used for a particular educational purpose. There will also be opportunities for the learners to use their phones whilst on their breaks and of course if they need to contact parents and carers in times of anxiety or an emergency. We hope that these new measures will meet your approval and that you will reinforce these at home prior to the young people attending school. For learners who like to work on their own tablet or laptop this will of course be permitted, if they are accessing age-appropriate learning apps/websites.

Winter Wear

The days are still quite chilly and wet, so I would like to send a reminder for the young people to bring appropriate clothing with them and a warm jacket for exploring our outdoor spaces and short local walks. We would also encourage where possible that the young people have a pair of outdoor shoes or wellies so they can change before coming back into the school buildings, this will help us keep our places and spaces as clean as possible during the wetter, colder months. These items can always stay at school if needed.

Thank You

As you will be becoming familiar with, I always like to end by thanking parents, carers and families that continue to support us in making sure we can keep the school and everything we do happening. I appreciate the ever-shifting sands of what we can and can't do along with the 'what do I do if' advice, I can only convey our thanks in relation to your unwavering support and communication back to the school, to make us aware of your own personal situations and circumstances. We are still looking to parents and carers to become part of



our parent/carer forum. If you are interested, please contact Michaela who will advise further. In addition, we aim to have some online after school activities available soon, including short fitness sessions with Jacob as he prepares for his charity event, you will be more than welcome to join in!

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter or would like to talk generally about aspects of the school, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely,



James Wilson

Head of APTCOO Independent School

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