

Message from Debi Bailey, CEO

As 2020 draws to a close, I have been reflecting of what an extraordinary year it has been.



Despite the unprecedented challenges, our pupils and staff have stepped up to make the best of the situation and do things differently. I can't thank everyone enough for all of the hard work – and to our families for supporting us as we have had to make changes to how we run things.

Keeping Covid-19 safe at Christmas

Our schools continue to experience significant disruption from positive cases and close contacts having to self-isolate, although this still appears to be from transmission within the community being brought into school.

We want to remind everyone this week of the need to keep yourselves – and others – safe and ensure you follow the government's 'Christmas bubble' arrangements. We hope everyone takes sensible steps to follow the rules over the holiday season so we can all spend time with our loved ones safely.



Please follow the arrangements below over the Christmas holidays:

Christmas Holidays Arrangements for families reporting Covid-19 positive tests

- Please do **NOT** telephone your school between Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January as they will be closed.
- If you need to report that your child has tested **POSITIVE** for Covid-19 between Monday 21 and Wednesday 23 December, please telephone the NEAT Academy Trust Office on 0191 2284090 between 8.30am-3.30pm.
- This will enable us to trace close contacts, who will have to **SELF-ISOLATE** for 10 days
- If your child tests positive **AFTER Wednesday 23 December**, you should be contacted by NHS Test and Trace by e-mail, text or phone to provide information about who they have been in close contact with. Text messages will come from NHStracing and calls from 0300 0135000.
- If your child is unable to return to school at the start of next term because they have tested positive or are self-isolating, please telephone your school as usual on Monday 4 January.

NEAT Christmas Appeal 2020

We've had a fantastic response to this year's NEAT Christmas Appeal with £7,000 raised in financial donations to the trust, as well as donations of tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sweet treats. We've also received generous donations of essential goods.



We'll be delivering Christmas gift packs to 1,200 families who qualify for free school meals between Wednesday 16 and Tuesday 22 December. These families will be notified by their school in advance of their delivery day/time.

If any family is experiencing difficulties with food supplies over the Christmas holidays (e.g. because you are having to self-isolate) then please get in touch with the NEAT Central Team on 0191 2284090 between Monday 21 and Wednesday 23 December or on Wednesday 30 December between 8.30am-3.30pm.

A **huge thank you** to the following organisations and individuals for making our appeal a success:

- Aldi, Asda, AKL Utilities, Crossling Newcastle, First Class Supply, Greggs, Lidl, Tony Lyons, Nestle, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle High School for Girls, Newcastle United Foundation, Santnder, Shepherd Offshore, Social Justice Lass, Tesco and Vision for Education.
- All of the NEAT staff who donated money or goods and have volunteered to make deliveries next week with staff from Newcastle United Foundation and Clennell Education Soutlions.

- All of the volunteers who have made up gift packs – and filled 1,200 cones with hot chocolate and marshmallows and stuck 2,400 eyes on!



NEAT makes its YouTube debut

We've had great fun over the last few weeks making an Introduction to NEAT video. It showcases our fantastic schools, staff and students and tells our journey so far as a trust.



You can watch the video on the NEAT Academy Trust YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtMXX_ecvGoL67P6iWzMivg

Update on St Hild's C of E School

We continue to make plans for St Hild's Church of England School in Hartlepool to join our trust from a target date of April 2021. Exciting times!



Wishing you happy holidays and let's look forward to better times in 2021!