

A Statement from the SLF about responding to the rising COVID case numbers in our region.

We are determined to play our part in reducing the transmission rates in our region, which have shown a sharp and rapid rise over the last two weeks especially among secondary age pupils, an increase driven by the Delta variant.

We are working closely with Public Health Cumbria and Cumbria County Council to ensure adherence to current risk mitigation protocols including Lateral Flow Device testing, strict control of “bubbles”, ventilation and hygiene, and the limiting of visitors into schools. We have also consulted with the Primary Heads Association and our partner primary schools.

Given that several of our schools have intakes from large numbers of primary schools and from other counties, we feel it is inadvisable to hold face to face events which move children between settings and we have therefore decided not to go ahead with any plans in our schools for face to face transition activities at any of the key stages in secondary education. From next week transition activities for year 6 into 7, for year 9 into 10 (where applicable) and for year 11 into 12 will therefore be virtual. apart from carefully controlled visits for children with additional needs.

We are planning to have thorough and supportive induction processes for students when they move to their new school or stage in September.

We hope that a concerted effort by Cumbrian schools to reduce rates of transmission this term will enable us to bring the transmission rates down, protect our communities and support the local economy.

Alison Wilkinson FCCT

Chair of the South Lakes Federation of Schools

16 June 2021