

**Tim Bowman**  
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Direct Line 0161 342 2050  
Date 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021**To: Parents and Carers**

Dear Parents and Carers

**Delivering open evenings differently/virtually**

Even though life may seem to be getting back to normal, Tameside now has the highest infection of coronavirus in Greater Manchester. The latest figures give the Borough's rate as 403.3 per 100,000, which equates to 916 new cases of coronavirus that we know of in just seven days.

While hospital admissions remain low, we are seeing an increasing number of people needing hospital treatment – showing how COVID-19 is continuing to seriously affect people despite the easing of restrictions. This shows how vital it is to continue sensible precautions like wearing a face covering in crowded areas such as public transport, socialising outside or letting fresh air in and minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.

Following a discussion between secondary school headteachers and our education and public health directors, we have taken the decision to deliver secondary open evenings differently this year rather than in person. This is not a decision that was taken lightly and was made following information and advice provided with our pupils best interests in mind. It is absolutely vital that we are able to do as much as we can to keep our schools open throughout this academic year and the impact of open evenings and mass community movement would put significant pressure on our abilities to keep schools open after such events.

We need to be safe and sensible about the decisions we make together in order to prevent further spread of the virus and to prevent further disruption to our pupils' education.

Open Evenings in Tameside will move to an **on-line delivery** platform and will go live on **Tuesday 5 October 2021**. School leaders and their teams will be working hard to represent the school experience as best they can and I would encourage you to go to the school websites and access these excellent resources.

Whilst this will be disappointing for many families and our Year 6 children, we hope you will agree that it is important to safeguard the education of children and the health of communities through safe and sensible decision-making.

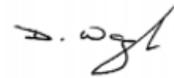
Yours faithfully



**Tim Bowman**  
**Director of Education**  
**(Tameside and Stockport)**



**Debbie Watson**  
**Assistant Director of**  
**Population Health**



**David Waugh**  
**Chair of the Tameside**  
**Association of Secondary**  
**Headteachers**