



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been fantastic to have all the students back in this week. They have demonstrated their keenness to return to learning in class and we hope to keep them in school for as long as possible. We hope you were all able to enjoy spending time with family and friends over the half term break now we are into our second lockdown. Despite this being hard for us all - socially, emotionally and financially - we understand why these measures have been put in place and trust that we have the support of parents and students in keeping our community safe over the coming weeks and months.

Please see below some important updates to our arrangements and plans:

## **Face masks**

In my letter of 22nd October, I reiterated our expectations on face masks. Thank you to the overwhelming majority of you who have ensured that your child arrives at school with an appropriate face mask and wears it during transition and social times. This has been our rule for some time. Now, however, this is set out in the DfE guidance. Therefore, we will apply a sanction if your child either arrives without a face mask or does not wear one in between lessons and in the Heart and Conservatory at break and lunchtimes. We do not, at this point in time, expect students to wear masks in the classroom. However, students can choose to do so if they prefer.

*DfE guidance 4th November:*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020#schools>

## **Safety measures in school**

We have marked out a 2m zone at the front of the classroom in order to ensure a safe social distance between staff and students. We have also installed perspex screens around the tills in the dining area.

As you know, we had intended to introduce swipe cards for the canteen this week. Unfortunately, the software to accompany the cards will not be available until the end of November, so we will distribute the cards to the students at this point.

## **Transport**

Children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport. This does not apply to those who are exempt.

We would encourage students to walk or cycle when travelling to and from school where this is possible, and to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. This will allow social distancing to be practised.



# To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

## Update on remote learning

Thank you to all parents for your unqualified support during the two weeks of remote learning prior to half term. We had been able to put robust plans in place after evaluating our provision in the Spring and Summer, and have been impressed with students' engagement and positive response.

Based on feedback so far, we will make some changes to our organisation of remote learning in the future, should a year group or bubble have to self-isolate. These are:

*Hard copies:* we will now only be sending hard copies of work where there is no access to technology in the home. We will, of course, continue to support families who need work on paper. However, the time taken to arrange and then post work on paper means that there is too long a period where a student would not have work to complete. We will aim to provide booklets or text books in advance for most students. We will also provide further training on using Google Classroom and other online platforms. Please encourage your child to work with these and use our guidance on the website and also the online student/parent Q&A sessions where you have questions.

*Timetable:* if we are in a position where a whole year group or large bubble of students is self-isolating, we will create a daily timetable for them to help organise their learning. Work will be scheduled for a specific time in the day and each lesson posted will relate to an hour's work.

We know that there will be further feedback from parents that will help us improve our remote education even more. We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete this short survey by Friday 13th November:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BJ6Gn-3LnnJTQHbYVrtkFkB5SNcYkkMXyD3lhfo4AvM/edit>

## Calendar

As a result of the partial closure before half term, we have made some changes to the assessment calendar. Year 8 and 10 assessments will go ahead as planned, whereas Year 11 assessments have been moved back; reports will be sent home in the w/c 7th December. Year 7 assessments have been moved to Term 3. We will continue to update you with changes to any dates of assessments and parents' evenings throughout each term and in response to local and national events.

Thank you for your support as we continue to react to national restrictions and at the same time endeavour to provide a meaningful education for your children.

Best wishes

Debbie McGloin