



19 October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Before I share with you some positive news, I must bring a serious point to your attention.

The last few weeks have been tremendously demanding for the school and for many staff here. This demand is made significantly more challenging when some parents do not fully support the school and indeed follow national guidance, regarding Covid-19. Specifically, it has been brought to my attention that, despite a legal requirement, some parents are sending their children to school when they have Covid-19 symptoms. Worse still, some parents are sending their children to school when their child has had a test, and awaiting a result, or someone in their household has had a test and is awaiting a result.

Because of a small minority of individuals, we have had to send many children home to self-isolate for 14 days, at a time. This creates inconvenience to students' learning, to families who have to find childcare, to other parents who have to take time off work, to families who had planned to take a holiday over half term and ultimately endangers other children's, and my staff's, health.

Therefore, I will be as explicit as I can, please do not send your child to school if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Do not send your child to school if you are waiting on a test result for them. Do not send your child to school if you, or anyone in your household have symptoms and you are awaiting a test result for them. Without everyone's support we will enter the winter term at a greater risk of having to send more students back home and request that they self-isolate for two weeks at a time.

---

I now want to take this opportunity to thank your children for their support in the first half term of the new school year. We asked all of them to learn and move around the school in a very different way. A way we could never have imagined we would have to impose on, or expect from, our students. But, as we are growing to better understand these days, life is not the same and we are all having to adjust and adapt. Our students are certainly playing their part.

I am proud of the students and how they have conducted themselves across the school and how they have engaged in learning in their classrooms. Attendance is rising, and is better than the national average, and students have taken to wearing face coverings with ease and without fuss or contest.

Because of their efforts, their maturity and them being more responsible, I feel the school is now ready to move to 'phase 2' of reopening. The intention is to allow students access to their specialist teaching spaces from Monday, 2 November 2020. From the beginning of the next half term, we will begin allowing groups of students to access practical subject teaching spaces, in a controlled manner, allowing them to complete necessary examination practical work, and assessments, that will enable them to be better prepared for next year's GCSEs and A levels.



It will also allow Y7, as well as other year groups, the chance to see more of the school and to experience their subjects in the best learning environment. It will also help support everyone's mental health and well-being, as people will be able to work in differing environments and not feel so isolated and restricted to one space.

For this to be a success, I call upon all students to work with me and my staff to make sure we can get back to a more 'normal' timetable. To allow this to happen I must insist on the following:

1. Face coverings must be worn at all times whilst moving between classrooms or at breaks. They should only be removed whilst eating.
2. No students are allowed through the HCP corridor. Students accessing PE1, the Gym, the Fitness Suite or Sports Hall must exit the building and walk outside to PE, via the turning circle near Science.
3. Students must walk on the left-hand side of corridors, as shown by the markings on the corridor floors.
4. Students must use the one-way system for going up and down stairs when accessing Maths, Geography or English.
5. Students should avoid physical contact with each other.
6. Students should avoid touching hard surfaces whenever possible.
7. Students should conduct themselves with maturity and with regard to COVID safe behaviours at all times, as per the school rules given to them during tutor times.

It is important that students adhere to the rules when they are moving, to minimise contact with other year group bubbles and keep everyone safe. Any student not obeying these rules will be sanctioned as per the school's behaviour system. Classrooms will be cleaned between groups.

The other control systems we have in place, for example: staggered starts and ends to the day and year group bubbles not mixing at break and lunchtime will remain in place. We have conducted further risk assessments across the school and we are confident that we have the necessary controls to allow some more, managed, movement across the school to allow students to make more gains in their learning.

Furthermore, we will be making further changes to social times at school to make the experience for all students that little bit better and little bit more normal. From Monday, 2 November 2020 we will now be serving hot meals for students to purchase. This will be in addition to the sandwiches and pasta pots which were served during half term 1.

Years 7, 9 and 11 will be able to purchase and consume food in the dining hall. They will also be allowed to access the lower playground, using the Science stairs and Science entrance. No access to the atrium or other areas of the school will be permitted.

Years 8 and 10 will be able to purchase and consume food in the atrium. They will also be allowed to access the upper playground, using the atrium doors. No access to the dining hall or other areas of school will be permitted. Further details about our plans can be viewed in the 'phase 2 reopening information' document which is on the school website.



I trust that parents, and most importantly all students, can support me in moving the school to its next phase and we can secure better learning experiences for all students. Experiences, that will support their examinations preparation and assessments next year and support their life chances into the longer term.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West  
Principal