



6 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

This communication replaces my usual Headteacher update letter as this week has been taken up with a lot of work on ensuring we meet the latest government guidance which comes into force on Friday. However, in very brief news we have had Year 11 mocks this week. Year 11 deserve a lot of credit for their positive attitude and well-disciplined approach to these exams. The invigilators who we employ have all remarked upon how easy the week has been because the students have been so focused. Moreover, thank you for your support regarding attendance this week. We had some trepidation that it may reduce due to the new lockdown but this week has come out at well over 95% which is really pleasing. Our current attendance for the term is 95.3% which is well above the local and national averages, so thank you for your ongoing support with this matter.

Coronavirus Update

On Wednesday evening the Department for Education released updated guidance for schools during the new lockdown period. They have given schools until Monday 9th November to fully implement these regulations.

As anticipated, the main change is the advice on face coverings in school. Students are now **required** to wear face coverings when moving around the school in confined areas.

This includes

- The corridors
- The canteen (except when sat and eating)
- The library

However, in classrooms face coverings are not required. Nevertheless, if any student wishes to wear a clear face visor when in the classroom this is permissible as this will enable clear communication between the students and member of staff. Please can I ask that all face coverings worn to school are sensible in design; any student wearing a face covering such as a distorted face image will be given a substitute covering for the day.

To support this, and for the duration of this advice, we are making face coverings part of our uniform requirement. Students will be expected to show their face covering to their tutor each morning. We will supply a replacement face covering on two occasions to any student who forgets their covering although there will be a short sanction to remind students to bring the covering in the future. On the third occasion we will be asking parents to come up to school with a replacement covering before the student can return to lessons. The government have been very clear on the need for face coverings and I have been clear to my staff to make sure they also support this by wearing their coverings around the site. Therefore, as a community please can we all encourage, cajole and support the students into the right habits. We do not wish to have difficult conversations with any student regarding this matter but there is a global pandemic currently happening and the students correct conduct is really important in supporting the national response to this very difficult situation.

The school bus is another area mentioned in the government advice although this hasn't changed since the updated regulations were issued around a month ago. That is, that students from Year 7 and up, must wear face coverings on school transport. I have been pleased with the level of compliance with this since the guidance changed however there are still a few students who remove their face covering or wear it under their chin when the bus departs down Reades Lane. The bus company are very keen that we work together to ensure that all passengers and crew follow the government advice to reduce transmission rates. Given that we are not able to preserve our key stage bubbles on the buses the wearing of coverings becomes all the more important in the next few weeks.

These changes are covered by our Covid Behaviour Policy Addendum. Please see below.

Deliberate incidents will be classified as Level 4 as per the Behaviour Policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilful defiance of the rules • Coughing or spitting at or towards any other person • Deliberate touching' of another person or their belongings • Wilfully putting the school community at risk 	<p>The pupil/student may be sanctioned, which could include a formal exclusion in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.</p> <p>Where the behaviours arise as a result of a particular Special Educational Need or vulnerability we will undertake a Risk Assessment in consultation with the parent/carer and other agencies where appropriate to ascertain whether it is safe for the pupil/student to be on site. Alternative options for learning may be considered following the school's informed risk assessment.</p>
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Unintentional incidents

Pupil/student forgets a rule	The pupil/student will be reminded of the rule and why it is important.
Pupil/student who for any reason finds it difficult to comply with the rules	We will support, encourage and educate them to make appropriate choices and we will involve parent/carers and other agencies where appropriate. Their age, special educational needs and personal circumstances will be considered.
Pupil/student repeatedly forgets the rules	We will undertake a Risk Assessment in consultation with the parent/carer and other agencies where appropriate to ascertain whether it is safe for the pupil/student to be on site. Alternative options for learning may be considered following the school's informed risk assessment.

Whilst we are aware of a few examples, if any student that we are unaware of is exempt from wearing a face covering for medical or sensory reasons please can you contact the school with a copy of your certificate of exemption that the GP will have provided.

Lastly, and very frustratingly the government have stated that schools should not provide extracurricular clubs during lockdown in the fields of sport and the Performing Arts. I am upset by this as it seemed to contradict the reasoning stated by the Department for Culture and

Sport last Monday when justifying the temporary halting of grassroots youth sport, that schools could provide extra for students in the short term. We are however, able to keep our provision of after school revision, homework club and detentions as this forms part of our curricular provision.

Thank you for your support in all these matters. By working together, I hope we can make the next four weeks move forward as quickly as possible and get school and wider life back to normal as rapidly as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher