

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a good half-term break. We are writing to update you in the context of the measures we are taking to keep students safe in relation to COVID 19 and the increasing number of cases at national and local level.

Many of the measures we put in place in September will remain the same during this half-term. We will still be asking students to sanitise when they arrive at school and they will have their temperatures taken with a non-contact thermometer. Students will be asked to socially distance as much as possible during the school day and classrooms are set up with this in mind. All classes have ample cleaning materials to ensure the environment is as clean as possible and we encourage students to wash their hands at regular intervals.

School staff will continue to wear masks in communal areas and during key times such as the arrival and departure of students. This is in line with the latest government guidance:

‘In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated and further education colleges, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained’.

However, we realise some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we will be sensitive to their needs.

We also remind students to wear masks when travelling to and from school unless they have an exemption.

Over the half-term, we have made some changes to our staffing arrangements to minimise the number of staff in each part of our provision whilst maintaining the quality of our students’ experience.

I would like to remind you that we will continue with a policy of not covering outreach or intervention if the staff member is absent. Switching staff in order to cover would seriously compromise our efforts to minimise the risk of COVID 19 transmission. We will, of course, review this policy at regular intervals in line with the national and local picture.

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In the event of this happening Google classroom will be available to support students with home schooling. We will contact you at the earliest possible time after receiving any information related to staff absence. We apologise for any inconvenience caused in these unprecedented times.

In terms of transporting students, we are still employing a minimal model with staff only transporting students when absolutely necessary and on short journeys with appropriate COVID precautions.

Finally, can I remind you to inform us immediately if anyone in your household develops COVID 19 symptoms? You will know that the whole household will need to self-isolate pending the result of a test. Please notify us of the result of the test as soon as this comes through. Rest assured we will keep you informed of any cases of COVID 19 within the school community that could impact on our young people.

These are challenging times for all of us. I know that a strong partnership between our provision and parents and carers will provide the best support for our students.

Best Regards

Simon Wood.

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