

Dear Parent/Carer

I thought I would give you a quick update as we are heading rapidly towards the Christmas break (just under four weeks). Although the run up to Christmas will be different this year (we would normally be preparing for our Winter Wonderland event now), we still have a few things planned.

Anyway, here are a few things to be aware of:

Mask Guidance Update:

Every student should carry two masks with them:

- One to wear
- One as an emergency if lost or damaged.

Any student needing to purchase a mask will need to pay 50p. Therefore, we ask that every student has 50p in cash with them or a deposit made using ParentPay so that the 50p can be deducted. Students are also issued a booking slip signature which could lead to a detention. This will not affect many students at all as the overwhelming majority of students never forget and many already carry spares.

Walking to and from School

We all know how hard it is for young people with the restrictions that they have upon seeing their friends in this strict lockdown. However, it does not excuse them from the rules. I am sad to say that I am getting growing numbers of reports from members of the public about students hanging round in their uniform in groups (sometimes quite large) on parks using the equipment or in groups on the streets. This is not allowed under the conditions of the national lockdown. Please reinforce that your child walks straight to school in the morning and straight home from school in the evening.

Wearing helmets

As you know, we always ensure that if your child rides a bike to school that they don't leave the site unless their helmet is on. Unfortunately, students are removing them once out of the sight of staff. Sadly one of our students was involved in an accident on Canberra Road last week. The student received significant facial injury. Had they not removed their helmet it is unlikely that they would have had such a level of injury. Everyone thinks that they are alright - until they're not alright.

Other news:

Miss Waring and Mrs Macintosh have both given birth and both they and their babies are doing well. We have had two positive cases in school this week, but thanks to good communication from parents and adherence to the guidance, we have managed to keep the numbers who have isolate quite low. The biggest factor that increases the number we have to instruct to isolate is playing football together. I have no intention of banning football at this time - I think that it is an important outlet and physical activity for our youngsters. However, if this is something you are concerned about then I would advise a discussion with your child about how they might otherwise occupy themselves at break and lunchtime, especially if you are a parent of a Year 11 who is missing further vital school time in isolation because they are playing football.

Have a good weekend and keep safe and healthy.

Kind regards

Mr Steven Haycocks

**HEADTEACHER
BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)