

Dear Parent/Carers

Sorry - to be in touch again. I do try to email you as little as possible so that when I do, you know that it will be concise and important. There are a number of things that I wish to draw to your attention.

Movement to and from school:

We have informed students that there have been a number of incidents across the North West and a number in the Leyland and Chorley area where men in cars/vans have tried to entice girls into their vehicles or conducted sexually inappropriate behaviour. They should be vigilant and whilst students cannot walk in groups greater than six, if they can be with a friend, that would be helpful.

Behaviour:

Our young people are subject to restrictions at home and restrictions within school, so it is easy to understand why, for some, the unsupervised time between home and school is an opportunity for silly behaviour. However, that doesn't make it right. There are a number of things that I would ask that you help us to reinforce, especially as they are happening outside school which means we are very limited in what we can do:

Road awareness:

There have been too many near misses and children just walking blindly off pavements. We are getting many calls from members of the public who are concerned about the lack of road safety shown by quite large numbers of students.

Inappropriate games:

Some of our Year 8 and 9 students, mainly boys, have been involved in what they think is a game, but could lead to injury. Please reinforce that pushing people into hedges and bushes can easily damage eyes and lead to serious cuts and bruises (a game they are calling George Bush) and slapping people across the back of the head if they have short hair (a game they are calling G-Slap) is also little short of a physical assault.

Rule of six:

Again, this is something that members of the public have been contacting us about. They report that students are walking in groups larger than six and that they are not socially distancing, but hugging each other or just being physically close. Similarly, we can't police this, but please can you enforce with your children the rules that apply to everyone about social distancing.

Wet weather:

We spoke to all students at the start of this week about having a coat or an umbrella with them as we knew the weather was going to turn today. Yesterday was our first wet lunch and we have been trialling how we can move students and maintain their bubble integrity. We think that we have some solutions from today, but it is important that your child does have a coat and/or umbrella with them as there will be some crossover times when some students may be outside for 5 - 10 minutes while we clear year group bubbles from an area.

Week 4:

Face masks are now compulsory across all Lancashire Schools. We have nearly made the first four weeks, but we are aware of more and more positive cases in households, even though we haven't had one within Balshaw's yet. Can I emphasise that if someone in your child's household is awaiting a test (i.e. they think they might have Covid) and they have any symptoms (and increasingly this can be sickness and diarrhoea in young people) they must be kept at home.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We know that you didn't just choose Balshaw's to get good results for your child, but to do our best to create young adults who are kind, caring people who will be a positive influence in school and the wider community.

Mr Steven Haycocks

HEADTEACHER

BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL