



Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter issued on Wednesday morning the government later released new guidance on social distancing and raised concern over the increasing R rate across the country. We have also seen and read of schools in the North West and across the country that have been fully closed or partially closed as a result of the pandemic.

While we have an ambitious curriculum which includes academic and practical aspects our priority has to be ensuring we keep as many students in school and should any infections occur in our community restrict, as much as possible, the number of children required to self-isolate. We have, therefore, been in consultation with the Trust to identify any further measures we can take to enhance our Covid secure and safe provision and maintain high levels of attendance in school.

While the DFE want schools to provide a normal school experience, they also require schools to avoid as much as possible students from other year group bubbles mixing. We have delivered this at break, lunch and during lessons but we believe we can further reduce this by restricting even further movement on corridors at the change over of lessons.

As a result of our discussions with the Trust, from Monday 14th September Year 7, 8 and 9 lessons will now be based entirely in their Year group zone including their practical subjects, with the exception of PE. This action will negate the need for these Year groups moving around the main school building at the change over of lessons.

For exam groups in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13, they will be in their dedicated areas for the vast majority of their timetable but will continue to access specialist rooms for practical subjects. Once this is in place and has been reviewed we will identify how we can facilitate access for Year 9 to their practical optional subject areas.

For us to achieve this we have had to re-room the timetable. To ensure that this amendment can occur as smoothly as possible we will inform students this afternoon during an additional period 5 PDR session with their tutor to distribute this letter and re-issue students timetables with their new class bases on it. We have also sensibly taken the time to show Year 7 their new dedicated classroom bases and staff will be on hand first thing on Monday as students arrive to support them going to PDR and new zones. Please be re-assured there are no changes to when lessons take place or the teacher they have.

As part of our commitment to creating a COVID safe learning environment, we thought it was important to remind you of the most up to date information regarding COVID-19 symptoms and our systems in school. As detailed on the NHS website, the main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal



If your child develops these symptoms, they are to self-isolate for 10 days and you are to arrange a test as soon as possible and keep us informed of the result. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

If a member of your family is contacted by track and trace, or develops symptoms, students are required to self-isolate for 14 days from the last day of contact with that person. Please inform school that your child is self-isolating as a reason for their absence so we can update our registers accordingly and organise work.

Finally, thank you for your continued patience and support in these unprecedented and challenging times. The school and Trust's priority is the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and their families and to keep as many students in school as safely as possible. We will continue to review the impact of our Covid secure plans on a daily basis to ensure we keep everyone safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Shannon', written in a cursive style.

John Shannon
Headteacher