



18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to my communication with you last week I am writing to update you further on some of our procedures. We are working hard to ensure that we minimise the risk of a positive COVID-19 case in our school community but I do know that some schools in Yorkshire, and elsewhere in the country, have had to send large groups of students home on the advice of public health agencies.

These agencies are facing considerable challenges at this time and can't always respond instantly to request for support from schools. This has led to schools contacting parents and carers at very short notice to ask them to keep their children at home. This has sometimes been at weekends and in the evening. I sincerely hope that we do not have to take such steps but I would appreciate your support and cooperation if we have to do this.

Use of facemasks

We are continuing to strongly recommend that students and members of staff wear facemasks in communal areas to reduce the chance of transmission of COVID-19. The vast majority of students are wearing masks in communal areas and I would like to thank parents/ carers for their support.

In addition to this recommendation, we will require all students to wear a facemask when queuing for and ordering food in the canteen areas from Monday 21st September. Members of staff who are supervising these areas, and canteen staff who are serving food, are at increased risk of transmission of COVID-19. This measure is part of our actions to minimise risk for these colleagues.

If your child has a medical reason that means they cannot wear a facemask they will be issued with an exemption card. Please put a note in their planner for Monday morning so that this exemption card can be issued.

Students who are unwell

We are being very cautious with any students who are presenting with potential COVID-19 symptoms and have sent a number of students home from school. During a global pandemic it can be difficult to decide whether or not a student has COVID-19 symptoms or has another illness. I have attached a flowchart of information that I hope will help parents and carers make a decision about what action to take if their child is ill.

If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19 please do not send them to school and follow the latest Government guidance.

HEADTEACHER: Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

“Working together to achieve success”

How will work be set if students are self-isolating?

Work will be set on Google Classroom for all students. Colleagues are uploading resources to Google Classroom for all groups that they teach. These will be found in the 'Classwork' section of their Google Classroom. Resources will be saved in this section to access when needed, rather than set as an assignment. Students should complete their work in their exercise books or on paper and bring these to school when they return.

If whole Year Groups have to self-isolate at home we will provide further updates about the work they need to do.

How will I access Free School Meals if my child has to self-isolate?

If your child has been told to self-isolate they will still be entitled to their Free School Meal on normal school days. We are currently looking at how we will provide this, but at this stage anticipate that this will be provided in the form of pack up meals or food parcels that will need to be collected from school. Where parents are unable to collect the parcel due to household isolation, they can tell the school that they have asked a friend or family member to collect it on their behalf.

What are the implications for my child's exams if they are asked to self-isolate?

At this stage we have been told that exams will happen this academic year. There have been some changes made to the content of exams but we will continue to prepare students to sit their exams at the end of the academic year. If there is any change to how exams will be conducted we will provide you with updated information.

Social Distancing

As you are aware we are continuing to follow Government Guidance by 'bubbling' year groups. This means that in school students are mixing with large numbers of students and yet outside the school gate should only be in groups of six people. I appreciate that this could be a confusing message for young people but please support us by encouraging your child to only be in a group of six outside of school. Some of our local residents are particularly concerned about the health risks of passing larger groups of students in the street.

Lockers

We are working towards re-allocating lockers to students in their year group bubbles. In order to achieve this all the lockers need to be emptied. Students who have belongings left in a locker can come to the main school reception after school to return their key and to arrange collection of their items from their locker.

Any items remaining in lockers after 16 October will have to be disposed of. This is a large undertaking and your patience is appreciated.

We continue to be very impressed by how well our students have returned to school. They are coping well with many changes to how school is run and are focused on their learning. Given the challenges we have all faced in recent months I would like to end by thanking you again for your continued support for the school.

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher

Links to helpful information

Guidance for households where someone has symptoms of COVID-19

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Booking a COVID-19 Test

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



My child is poorly: what should I do?

