

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Before we started back, we were all prepared for a difficult term. These last few weeks have proven to be challenging, but also incredibly encouraging. The school, students, parents and local community have pulled together brilliantly to ensure we have been able to enjoy a new version of school. As we reach the final week of the half term, I would like to share some information with you about LSA in the current climate.

**Covid update:** The school has continued to be as strict as we can, whilst running a school for young people. We have managed to isolate the occasional positive cases we have had and have kept disruption to a minimum. However, we remain highly vigilant, talking to many students, families and local clubs to track and trace. Thank you for your support with this.

The announcement today that Lancashire will be in tier 3, puts another massive pressure on schools to provide a safe working environment. In our case, that involves ensuring the behaviour of students reflects our cautious approach. **Please talk to your child about the impact of being in a tier 3 part of the country and the absolute need to follow Covid specific rules on the way to school, at the school gate, through the school day and on the way home.** Even where our opinions may be different from the government approach, we do not have the choice of picking and choosing.

One of the challenges of keeping school as normal as possible has been a large number of lessons delivered remotely due to absence. We have a great team of regular supply teachers who have been excellent, but we recognise that there was always going to be disruption this year. I just wanted to reassure parents that we monitor this, recognise where there may be gaps and ensure that the cover work supplements the curriculum. These lessons always work best when the students have the same high level of expectation, attitude and behaviour, which we are seeing regularly.

**Arrangements at the start of the day:** Thank you for your help in getting students in to school in the mornings. However, please can we ask that we remember the following:

- Students must arrive after 8:20am but BEFORE 8:40am
- They must wear a mask as soon as they enter our site
- They are not allowed to gather in groups at the school gate
- Please encourage your child to leave the site promptly at the end of the day and keep moving to bus stops away from the school site
- Please also ensure that you are considerate towards people living locally when parking

**Uniform:** Please ensure that your child arrives at school in the right uniform, ready to learn. This includes school shoes, optional v-neck sweater (NOT round neck PE tops). Coats must be worn over the top of blazers. It is also important that all students have a face mask as they arrive, as part of their uniform. We have issued a number of masks but will be removing the disposable masks soon. Please make sure your child has a mask as they leave for school.

**Online Blended Learning:** Last week we shared details of how we will manage the blend between online learning and traditional teacher led lessons. Again, parents must check their child has access to the Office 365, Microsoft Teams and Satchel One accounts. Please keep asking them!

**Consequences/Detentions:** The fact that we have managed to run a school for this long, without the ability to issue consequences for poor behaviour shows how brilliantly our students behave. However, in order to ensure the best possible lessons and highest standards, we will be reintroducing a detention at the end of the day for students who are unable to follow the school systems. Further details will follow, but please take this chance to chat to your child about the need to listen to teacher warnings and avoid the need to be asked twice for brilliant behaviour.

**Know where your children are:** In the last two weeks, we have received a spate of complaints about behaviour of students in areas outside of school. This has included local parks, buses and shops. Again, we know it is only a very small number but they are impacting on the 1500 students who represent our school with distinction, daily. Please can I ask that you ensure your child gets home quickly after school and that you know where they are.

Thank you all for your incredible support during this most challenging time. Our students have been a credit each day, returning to school, managing the change and proving themselves to be fantastic young people.

Have a great weekend.



Ray Baker  
Headteacher