



13 October 2020

Dear parents, guardians, carers

Thank you again for all you are doing to support the highest of standards for our students. The vast majority have been highly responsive to our expectations about consideration of the safety of others. Also, as all students require an even higher level of maturity in their work ethic to catch up on the lost time from school, the vast majority have been superb with a no-nonsense, diligence in their approach to independent study. To walk through school with every classroom door open and to sense the focused, purposefulness of every lesson, I am only too aware how this is a credit to your values and those daily, subtle nudges that support us with your child's education. With that in mind, a few messages:

## Safety matters

- **The Local Authority** has been in touch to ask parents to have a heightened sense of vigilance as BCP has been identified as a 'Covid hot-spot'. They have issued the following advice: "We need you to explain to your children that socialising outside of their school bubble increases risks of whole year groups being sent home. They need to avoid parties and other events that are above six in number and reduce their contact with pupils from other schools. If they have symptoms (persistent dry cough, fever/hot to the touch or loss of taste or smell) they should not come in and should let school know straight away. Please do not send your child in if you or they are awaiting a test result.

They should not attend events or meet up with groups larger than 6. The 'rule of 6' is the [law](#) and after the Prime Minister's statements it is likely to be enforced more stringently.

- **Face coverings – durable, washable masks**  
Please could I remind parents of my letter last month requesting all students to have their own mask – we require this to be a plain (no designs or slogans), 'washable' mask. There have been a number of students that are wearing disposable masks which are only effective for three hours; also, the fasteners on these frequently break. Please ensure a durable, washable mask is brought in every day – reminders are needed especially when PE kit is worn as students often forget to transfer theirs from a blazer pocket.  
<https://poolehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200903-Letter-to-parents.pdf>

## SIMS App – your data

Please note that we have made a change in the data collection form on the Sims Parent app to restrict access to the contact details of other adults. If you wish to amend the contact details of adults associated with your child or children, please contact the year office with details. We may ask for additional information to verify the request.

- Finally for the parent app, as you may be aware, data protection legislation requires that we have explicit permission for processing your data beyond those required directly for the education of your child(ren). We want to make sure that you are still happy for us to process your data via the parent app and to this end we are requesting an update of permission from all parents. Please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/K4en7ugUKGSSDWSGA>. In the meantime the app will continue to function but if we do not receive permission by **Friday 23 October**, then we will assume you are not consenting to our continued use and will remove your access.

- If you are having trouble remembering your details or have never registered before please email [sims@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk](mailto:sims@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk) for assistance. Please include your name in addition to your child's name.
- **Cyclists** are reminded of the importance of helmets, lights and fluorescent strips.
- The 'on-site' afternoon 'bus pick-up' is increasing in popularity. Thank you for encouraging this safer and greener alternative for children travelling home: <https://poolehigh.co.uk/more-school-bus-service/>
- **School coat**  
Please ensure that your child wears a school coat each day as the weather is increasingly unpredictable. Details on acceptable coats are on our website: <https://poolehigh.co.uk/parents/uniform-expectations/>
- **Friends of Poole High School - FOPHS**  
Thank you to FOPHS and to those that have already generously donated for extra outside seating. FOPHS also welcome new members at any time and further details are available in letter: <https://poolehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-09-24-FOPHS-letter.pdf>

### Sixth Form

On **Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October**, all Sixth Form students will be dismissed from school after lesson 3 at 12.15pm to study at home. As we are unable to have an Open Evening, we need to ensure all Year 11 students are fully informed of the progression routes open to them.

### Year 7

In previous years we have held a 'Welcome Celebration Evening' during this month. Unfortunately we will not be able to run this due to the social distancing constraints. Therefore, we will be inviting Year 7 parents virtually to a tutor evening on **Tuesday 10 November**. Please keep this date in your diary. A further letter with details will be sent approximately 2 weeks in advance.

In addition, the NHS has made a school-based flu vaccination available to all pupils on Monday 9 November. Obviously, this requires your consent:

<https://poolehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NHS-letter-Flu-vaccination-PHS-with-leaflet.pdf>

### Year 8

Please note in your diary **Tuesday 8 December** a virtual parent evening will be held with further details to follow.

Many of you have been extremely understanding about zoning arrangements. However this resulted in students having to sit on laboratory stools for five lessons. Thank you for your feedback. We have now replaced 250 stools with more appropriate seats. Unfortunately, this significant expense has had to come from school funds, so – once again your support of FOPHS will be appreciated.

### Year 9

The Duke of Edinburgh Award team is delighted to offer the whole of Year 9 the opportunity to complete their Certificate of Achievement. As you may be aware, the affectionately known 'D of E' is a long established, highly regarded certificate which universities and employers

consider a very good indicator of individual character. Given that so many extra-curricular activities have been curtailed, I strongly recommend the alternative. To my knowledge, no other school in the area is providing the award on this scale. For more information please visit: <https://www.dofe.org/dofedifference/> .

### Year 10

Religious Studies revision will start to take place after half-term in preparation for the GCSE exam summer 2021. Again, uniquely for so many of our students, to be taking this course which is challenging in terms of its literacy demands, conceptual challenge and insights into cultural perceptions of truth, is a credit to your children's appetite for learning. The impact this will have upon students' confidence for the rest of their exams in Year 11 should be significant. Thank you in advance for any support you can give.

### Year 11

Year 11 students will be off timetable next week for Periods 5 on **EITHER Thursday 15 OR Friday 16 October** to look at future options post 16. The 'X' half of the year group will attend on Thursday, the 'Y' half on Friday. In the parents' evening on 11 January, we will be able to have more meaningful discussions about progression routes with parents once we have the mock examination data to hand. Parents will also have a chance to talk to the Sixth Form team on the 22 October during a live Q&A session (details and links will be texted/emailed to closer to the day).

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring attendance to revision sessions after school. Many students are now receiving 'one to one' or 'two to one' tuition in English and Maths and we will be expanding this over the coming weeks. Mock examinations will take place for two weeks commencing **Monday 16 November**. Please support your son/daughter in preparing for these examinations. Further details for support can be found on the website: <https://revision.poolehigh.co.uk/>

### Oxbridge outreach – Year 10 and Year 11

As you may be aware, Merton College, Oxford and Downing College, Cambridge have outreach programmes to schools in the south west. There is more information here and the sign up form on the website: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/outreach/year-10-and-11-university-taster-webinar>. There will also be a University Taster Webinar for Year 9 sometime around February/March – more details to follow.

### Christmas in school

Across the school we will be looking at a number of alternatives to ensure our spirits are lifted to endure the darker winter period. A number of fundraising and alternative events are being considered.

- During November we will be taking part in the Christmas Shoe Box appeal run by the Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion (FSCI). This involves creating a shoe box full of various items to send to others in Southeast European countries living in poverty and vulnerable situations. We hope that by creating these shoe boxes we will be able to spread some joy to those less fortunate after a year which we have all experienced many difficulties. More information will be shared during tutor times in the coming weeks.
- **14-16 December** Yr7-9 will be attending a Christmas service in the school theatre in their year groups. All year groups will be asked to support the local foodbank.
- A reminder that on Friday 18 December school will close at 12.30pm for the majority of children.

## Good News

Finally, you may have seen in the local press that Poole High School has been awarded Careers

Lead School status by the Quality Commissioning Directorate. This means we are one of four schools across the county who will model best practice in this area and support other schools. Congratulations to Ms. Porter and our governors Mr. Tansey and Ms. Billington-Beardsley for not only helping the school to achieve the Gatsby 8 benchmark, but also for the strenuous efforts in developing such a strong network of support locally.

We have also been awarded a quality mark as a Music Mark school. Huge congratulations go to Mrs Ellicott and her Performing Arts team in recognition of providing high quality music education for all our young people. Such achievements are indicative of our families working so supportively with our community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gray', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Mr P Gray  
Headteacher