



16 September 2020

Dear parents, carers and guardians

Re. (i) calendar matters; (ii) road safety; (iii) COVID 19 precautions; (iv) Self-Quizzing; (v) audit on home learning; (vi) Buses

(i) Calendar matters

Thank you for supporting us with such a smooth start to the year. The volume of changes and procedures my colleagues have implemented throughout the summer has been phenomenal. On the whole, students have been excellent. It has been a joy to resume a greater sense of normality. The new measures to show heightened consideration for others in school have been very well observed. Your sons and daughters have been a credit to you. We trust this will continue.

To provide clarification about **calendar matters** please note the following:

- Last week's INSET was an emergency arrangement to put in place the most recent government requirements. All teachers have had to prepare for the fact they are now teaching across six different zoned areas - physical subject departments no longer exist;
- this Thursday 17 September is a full teaching day. School will run as a normal five period day;
- Friday 18 September is a training day **as previously published**. School will be closed to students. We are using this time to ensure the curriculum changes announced by Ofqual and the highest standard of delivery is implemented by all teachers, including the excellent new cohort of staff who have just begun their contracts.

Please also note for your diaries:

- **Friday 23 October**, will be a full teaching day for all year groups;
- **Monday 28 June** will also be a full teaching day to all year groups.
- For information, one of the consequences of the safer re-zoning in school is that there is far less space available. Therefore, during periods of public examinations this year, it may not be possible to accommodate all year groups as in previous years. Once we have modelled the final details around this, we may need to require affected year groups (e.g. Years 12 or 13) to undertake study from home. More information will follow about this.

(ii) Road Safety

Finally, further to my letter in August, I am grateful to you for the steps you have taken to support the socially distanced arrival of students on to the campus. This has become a more important matter for us given the congestion caused by the early arrival times of buses. Initial indications are that this arrangement will need to continue. There has been a significant increase in the numbers of students cycling and walking to school. The police have asked me to pass on three observations to the small minority of parents to whom this applies:

- Please exercise extra care, only using legitimate parking areas if dropping your child off near school. Bus stops and yellow lines must not be used;
- when manoeuvring on Wimborne Road, please ensure you do not cause cyclists to swerve into the middle of the road;
- the area on the left hand side of the police station is prohibited as a stop zone.

(iii) COVID 19 precautions - symptoms of coronavirus in children

Our parents have been very measured in response to some of the accounts about the recently reported resurgence in cases. The potential risk this represents for learning, families and the whole school community is as stark as ever. The information provided by the NHS (below), will help you to know what to do in the event of possible coronavirus symptoms. Please note the guidance can change and this is the best summary of information to support our working together over the next few months.

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
- Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

Please be reassured that if your child has symptoms of the usual winter bugs e.g. runny nose or sore throat but DOES NOT have any of the symptoms listed above then they can still go to school.

What to do if your child has the above symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible - please be aware that you cannot under any circumstances get a test through your GP surgery so please do not ring for this purpose alone. You can ONLY get a test through 'NHS 111 online' OR by ringing 119 if you do not have access to the internet. Online <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test. Please only order a test for the person in your household who has symptoms. These tests are NOT for individuals who do not have symptoms.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.

What you can do to decide if your child needs to see a GP

If you are worried about your child, please click on the link below to an excellent website called 'Healthier Together' where there is lots of very useful information about managing illness in children: <https://what0-18.nhs.uk/>

There is also a page dedicated to COVID-19 in children. It is important to remember that COVID-19 appears to generally cause mild illness in children. Only about 1 in every 100 cases diagnosed in the UK have been in children and infection is generally far milder in children than it is in adults, although we do not yet understand exactly why this is the case.

Once you have looked at your child's symptoms if you are still concerned and think they need to be seen then please either:

- access NHS 111 online OR ring 111 for COVID-19 symptoms
- if you do not think your child's illness is due to COVID-19 then please contact your GP practice.

We are all working hard to ensure our students are safe and happy in school.

(iv) Self-Quizzing

Finally, on a positive note related to learning, all year groups have responded really well to the classes on 'Self-Quizzing'. It would be immensely helpful if you asked your child to teach you how to do this using page 10 of the Student Planner. The following link may help: <https://poolehigh.co.uk/parents/self-quizzing/>

(v) **Audit**

An audit will coming to you shortly to help us to make better provision for your children in the need to work from home.

(vi) **Buses**

New trial routes will available from **Monday 21 September**. Further details to follow. This will involve picking up children on the school campus in the afternoon to support their safety.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gray
Headteacher