



23rd October 2020

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

As our region has now moved into Tier 3 it is essential that we all follow the guidance issued to everyone and remain socially responsible. Please can I ask that we all support local and national initiatives to reduce the risk of infection.

Over the half term should you or your child test positive for COVID-19 we do still need you to inform school. Should this be the case please email covid19@scrchs.com and clearly state the day that symptoms developed and the day a positive test was confirmed.

A reminder that the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

The local walk through test centres are located at:

- **Rochdale** - in the marquee on the car park at the rear of Rochdale Town Hall, Packer Street, Rochdale OL16 1AB. For sat navs you may wish to use OL16 1AZ. [Find the Rochdale test centre on Google Maps.](#)
- **Middleton** - in the marquee on the Market Place Car Park next to Middleton Arena, Old Hall Street, Middleton M24 1AG. [Find the Middleton test centre on Google Maps.](#)
- **Heywood** - Heywood Civic Centre, LCpl Stephen Shaw MC Way, Heywood OL10 1LW. Opened Wednesday, 26 August 2020 (initially open for 8 weeks). [Find Heywood test centre on Google Maps](#)

We understand that this is a difficult time for parents in supporting their children through the challenges presented by the pandemic. Some useful advice on how parents and carers can support their children's mental health and wellbeing can be found:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Following the half term break, we will continue with our focus on high standards of uniform and being prepared for learning. I thank you for supporting us with this.

I hope that you and your families have a restful half term. We will look forward to seeing our students again on Monday 2nd November.

REMOTE LEARNING

Please see the attached parent guide regarding remote learning. It is essential that should students have a COVID related absence that they engage in their remote learning. Knowledge Organisers and exercise books have already been sent home and should be used on day 1 of any COVID absence. Lessons will be delivered via Teams from day 2 of any COVID related absence (wherever possible). The attached guide gives full details on the remote learning plans in place.

NOTICES

- **Students must bring their own masks.** We have given out a significant number of disposable masks this year and many are to the same small number of students who repeatedly need one. A charge of 50p will be made for students who need to purchase a mask.
- It is essential that all students are in **correct PE kit**. Details of this can be found on the school website and on the school Facebook page. Some students have taken to wearing items which are clearly not acceptable items of clothing and this must stop. Details of where the correct kit can be purchased are on the website.
- Whilst in form there will be both **equipment** (including bags) and uniform checks. Students must also have a reading book with them
- **Parent Pay** - Please ensure your child's parent pay accounts are checked regularly to ensure they have sufficient funds at the start of the week to be able to purchase food. Students are not allowed to go overdrawn.
- **Mobile Phones** – Students are not allowed to use their phones in class, anyone who does will be given an immediate C3 (30 min detention).
- **Buses** – The Department of Education have updated school guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings on 1/10/20 stating: Children aged 11 and over are legally required to wear a face covering on public transport in England, unless exempt for health, age or disability reasons. Please remind your child that masks should be worn at all times on their journey to & from school, failure to comply with the TfGM transport rules may result in a bus ban.
- **Social distancing** - We would like to thank all students and parents who are adhering to the social distancing restrictions at this time. Can we kindly ask parents to remind your child of social distancing out of school hours and on their journey home especially if they are collecting siblings from other local primary schools or if they are in and around any recreational areas, in particular the Balderstone Park area.
- **Year 10 and Year 11 Parents** - On Monday 12th October the government made an announcement about this **summer's GCSE examinations**. They are planned to go ahead from Monday 7th June until Friday 2nd July 2021, (though paper 1 in Maths & English will be 'before the May half term' though no dates have been confirmed for this). GCSE results day is Friday 27th August. There is no current published subject timetable, these will be shared with pupils as soon as they have been set by the examination boards.
- Year 11 students will be sitting GCSEs examinations in all of their core subjects. Year 10 students will be sitting examinations in their 2 chosen Specialism subjects.
- Supporting the preparations for these GCSE examinations, will be assessments in school. In November 2020 there will be some in class assessments, the grades that students achieve in these will be shared with you via their school report. In February/March 2021 the students will sit their Mock Examinations in the hall and again the student results will be shared with you via their school report. From April 2021 there will be lots of opportunities for students to practice exam papers. For any further information please contact Mrs Hill.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 2nd November – School Reopens.
- Monday 2nd November – food is on sale again at break time.
- November: Virtual Information Evenings for all parents in all year groups. Exact dates to be confirmed.