

Parent Update

2 October 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

I can't quite believe that we have reached October already, the past few weeks have definitely flown past. I had hoped, as I'm sure we all did, that by this point we would see the virus loosening its grip and an easing of the restrictions across the country. Sadly that's not the case and we are still in a period of great uncertainty in all of our local communities.

Within the school we are continuing to take very precaution we can and more than ever it is vital that every student and member of staff pay close attention to their own behaviour and play their part in suppressing the spread of the virus. Senior staff are at each entrance in the morning to welcome students, ensure that they sanitise their hands before entering the main building and wearing a face covering where they are able to. We have been handing out disposable masks to any who need one and are happy to continue to do so. However I am concerned that many students are not continuing to wear face coverings throughout the day, particularly during breaks and would like to ask that you reinforce the importance of this with your child. As a reminder, the following applies to face coverings in school:

- Students and staff should wear masks in corridors and social areas at all times. All should be encouraged to do so even when corridors are quiet/ empty.
- In dinner halls students should wear a mask in the queue, then remove it to eat and drink. If still sitting in canteen after eating or moving to another social space within the school, they should put the mask back on.
- Students should wear a face covering on buses, including school buses.
- Teachers will not ask students to wear masks in class.
- If students choose to wear a mask in class, that is fine. Some may wish to when working in small groups, for example when conducting science experiments.
- If a teacher needs to go nearer than 2 metres to a student in class for more than 15 minutes, a mask should be worn.
- Some people are exempt from wearing a mask and we ask that everyone is understanding of individual circumstances.

Parent Council

I am delighted to say that Tuesday's Parent Council meeting worked well on the virtual platform and my thanks go to the Chair, Angela Ritchie, and all of the Council members for their valuable contributions to the discussions. Much of this was around reviewing what had taken place to continue learning and teaching during the lockdown period and some of the ways we have been adapting since. It was agreed that the Parent Council will meet every

month rather than every two months for the time being since circumstances are changing so much at the moment.

Full details of the meeting will be on the school website once the minutes have been agreed at the next meeting which will take place on Tuesday 27th October, from 6pm to 7 pm.

Dress Code

The senior student leadership team have now had the braiding added to their blazers and we will have the school notice boards updated with their photos to help other students recognise who is working with their house group.

On the theme of dress code, could I ask that you ensure your child is appropriately dressed for school at all times and that you contact us if you have any difficulty in obtaining the appropriate clothing.

Many thanks for your continued support during these challenging times and I hope that you and your families remain safe and well.

Pauline Allison
Head Teacher

Reminder of Covid 19 Protocols

As you are aware, with the return of our pupils and staff to school, we have put procedures in to place that support all members of the school community if anyone displays symptoms of Covid 19.

A reminder that the symptoms are:

- High temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If a pupil displays symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child (please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details). **Pupils over the age of 16 may return home themselves.** The pupil should, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.

You will be asked to follow Test and Protect and we will provide you with a copy of the Test and Protect Leaflet and Step by Step Guide when your child is collected.

Information on the groups of children within the school, **and on school transport**, and the adults that each group of children come in to contact with will be collected. This is to fulfil legal responsibilities for public health and will allow Test and Protect to contact appropriate people in the event of a positive test result.

If anyone within your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send your child to school. Report their absence and the reason for this by calling PSA in the morning.