



4th November 2020

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Dear Parents/Carers

It is lovely to have students and staff back to school. Attendance is still excellent and well above schools nationally at present. Students have continued to work hard on their return and are producing some excellent pieces of work.

Health and Safety at School

We continue to review our risk assessments to ensure the Academy is as safe as possible and as such, we continue to have significantly fewer cases than other schools. We have reviewed our approach to **face coverings** and we now strongly advise that they are to be worn indoors, except in the classroom, by all staff and students unless they have a health or disability reason to not wear one. Students still have the option to wear face coverings in the classroom. From Monday, if a student forgets their mask and wants to be given one, then they should see their Head of Year or a senior member of staff when they are lining up at the start of the day. Classrooms will still need to be well ventilated and so windows will need to be opened, even if the weather becomes colder. Students can wear their coats in the class if the room becomes particularly cold. Blazers should be worn at all times underneath their coat.

Travelling safely to school

The vast majority of our students come to and from school safely and are extremely respectful of the local community. We emphasise to students how important our CARE values are outside the Academy as well as inside it. This week we have been talking to the students in assemblies about this. They are clear that if a student is travelling unsafely to school or not being respectful of the local community, then sanctions will be applied by the Academy.

If your son/daughter rides their bike to school please can you talk to them about riding safely. If they are riding or even just walking, please remind them that with a national lockdown in place they should not be with groups of other students. They should leave in time to get to school but not hours early to meet up with others. When leaving the school they should go straight back home. They should be mindful of other residents who are walking down the street or are in cars driving. Thank you for your support in making sure your son/daughter comes to and from school safely.



Remote Education

As you may be aware, schools are required to have a remote education plan in place so that any child who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning. If your son/daughter is absent because they are having to self-isolate, they will be set work by their subject teachers in Teams. As we receive communications every day from parents, and the attendance picture of the school is constantly changing, it is impossible for teaching staff to predict who will be absent due to COVID-19 in advance of their lessons. Therefore, staff will be informed at the end of each school day which students have been absent and will then **upload work for these students to complete in Teams**. This means that students are effectively working one day behind their timetable. However, this method is necessary to ensure that the correct work is set for the correct students. TEAMS does send out a notification at 1am which cannot be turned off centrally so it is up to the user to turn this notification off.

Homework

Our method of setting homework will remain the same. We will still be using **EduLink as the main platform to set homework**. Teachers may well use EduLink to direct students to other online resources (such as Teams, Mathswatch, GCSE Pod) to support them with their learning. As both students and parents have access to EduLink and are familiar with how it operates, we are confident that it is the most effective way to set homework.

I will continue to communicate regularly with you this term to keep you informed of how we are supporting your children.

Please take good care of yourselves.

Regards



Mark Little

Principal

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