

27/08/20

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing with **an update ahead of the return to school next week**. I hope that your daughter/son is looking forward to returning as it is vital for their education and for their wellbeing. As ever, our priority will be to ensure that students are safe, happy and successful. This letter contains important information regarding how we will be operating with effect from next week.

STUDENTS SHOULD WEAR FACE COVERINGS WHEN MOVING AROUND SCHOOL

Having reviewed the latest government guidance provided yesterday, we have decided that students and staff SHOULD wear face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed (e.g. moving around the building and queueing for food). This is to provide additional confidence to everyone to support a full return of children to school. Our role as educators is to ensure that youngsters are safe and that they become resilient, responsible and respectful citizens. If it is necessary to wear a face covering in shops, then we feel it should be necessary in schools.

The World Health Organisation published a statement on 21 August about children and face coverings. They now advise that “children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area.”

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission. Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided. On the basis of current evidence, we have a system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. For example people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability.

AFTER-SCHOOL STUDY ROOMS

We will have an after-school study room available within each year group bubble for individuals wishing to complete homework whilst waiting for school transport.

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HOME SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Please find attached Information for Parents and Carers regarding Warwickshire School Transport from September 2020. Government guidance has confirmed that social distancing on dedicated school and college transport vehicles will not be mandatory from September (it remains a requirement on the public transport network). However, the following expectations apply:

- where possible distancing should be maintained.
- we expect students to be socially distanced whilst queuing, boarding and alighting vehicles where possible.
- where possible how students are grouped together on transport should reflect the year group bubbles that are adopted within school. **Students are therefore asked to sit with peers from their own school and their own school year group.**
- **students must use the same seat/row of seats each day and remember or make a note of the seat/row number if available.** This will facilitate the test and trace process.
- whilst travelling, students should always stay seated, avoid physical contact, face forwards and away from others, and not shout or raise their voices.
- WCC do not expect drivers to police pupil behaviour. Their role is to focus on driving the vehicle safely. Where students do not behave in accordance with transport guidance and/or generate an unacceptable safety risk to staff or others, they will be refused transport by WCC without notice.
- face coverings for students over the age of 11 are recommended whilst on dedicated school transport (and mandatory for students travelling on public transport).

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL and SEPARATE ENTRANCES / EXITS / STAIRS

Students should not arrive at school before 8.30am. They will not be able to access the building before this time. When entering the year groups must use the following doors

- Year 7 - Normal student entrance (front/centre of the main building).
- Year 8 – rear Art corridor entrance and stairs internally.
- Year 9 - rear Performing Arts entrance and using the main Reception stairs internally.
- Year 10 – front Technology / Exams entrance and Technology stairs internally.
- Year 11 - rear Sixth Form / allotment entrance and rear Sixth Form / allotment stairs internally
- 6th form – normal rear Sixth Form entrance by lockers

Students will be required to **sanitise their hands on entry and when entering classrooms throughout the day.** This is a requirement of entry to the building.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Clearly students must not engage in any behaviours which put the health and welfare of others at risk. We cannot afford to become complacent in relation to these issues; students will have the expectations made very clear to them and we appreciate your support in doing the same to help avoid another coronavirus spike and school closure.

I look forward to seeing your daughter/son next week. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher

Coming to school during a pandemic: Student protocol

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school however we are returning to school during a pandemic so things are not the same. It is essential that everyone behaves responsibly for two reasons:

1 We must observe all the health and safety measures in place to reduce the risk of infection.

2 We must maximise the teaching and learning opportunities in school so that students are not further disadvantaged.

It is therefore vital that all students observe the following at all times:

- Bring all your own required equipment to school. This must include a full water bottle. Belongings must be carried around in a bag as lockers can not be used.
- Bring your own tissues and use these to catch coughs and sneezes. Dispose of used tissues in a bin with a lid (not a classroom bin) or take them home for disposal.
- Travel to school in a safe way maintaining social distance and year group bubbles. Anyone using public transport must provide and use their own face coverings.
- Arrive at school no earlier than 8.30
- Enter the school via the allocated door, no other day can be used.
- **Students SHOULD wear coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed (e.g. moving around the building and queueing for food).**
- Hands must be sanitised on entry.
- Stay within your allocated area unless taken to a practical room by a member of staff.
- Use only the social areas and toilets allocated to your year group. Other areas must not be entered.
- Maintain a 2 metre distance from staff at all times.
- No chewing gum under any circumstances.
- Sit in the allocated seat in lessons and face the front of the classroom.
- Behaviour in classrooms must be conducive to your own learning and the learning of others. Disruption will not be tolerated, too much learning time has already been lost.
- Behaviour at break and lunch must be responsible and should never disrupt the lessons that are going on.
- At the end of the day leave via the allocated door. No other should be used.
- Students waiting for a bus must maintain the year group bubble and follow the direction of the staff on duty.