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29th September 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re. Tighter COVID measures and winter jackets (29th September 2020)

I am writing to update you on the school's response to the two COVID cases we were informed about last week and to briefly mention the need to keep dry and warm over the course of the next few months.

Yesterday in form time, pupils were shown a YouTube video (you can view it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHxDkNfVMNM>) where I explained the school's response to the rising number of COVID cases nationally, locally and within the school community.

I wanted to emphasise the expectations on students and staff in school both to minimise the risk of infection and to minimise the disruption caused if we do have further cases.

Our instructions to staff and students in the school reference the "Hands, Face, Space" slogan that has been adopted by the government/NHS and is widely understood.

Hands

No significant change here to our existing guidance which is that people should be encouraged to wash their hands or sanitise as frequently as possible. We have hand sanitiser in all classrooms and all teaching blocks, soap and hot water in toilet areas and have encouraged pupils to have their own hand sanitiser as well.

Face

We have already recommended that pupils have a face covering with them at school that should be worn in busy corridors. We are also now asking pupils to wear a face covering if they need to cross through another year group bubble, for example if they are walking to Student Services, the canteen or to a computer room across the site.

Space

Maintaining social distance in the environment of a secondary school is very difficult and one of the main reasons we have designated teaching and break zones for each of the year group bubbles. We would like pupils, even within their year groups, to give sensible consideration to group sizes they are spending time with at break and lunch. Outside of school, we are all having to adhere to the 'rule of 6' and we will make reference to this in school if we feel that pupils are gathering in larger numbers. We are also emphasising the importance of not making physical contact with other pupils where possible.

These proportionate responses are the measures that staff will be speaking to pupils about to both reduce the risk of infection and the likelihood of us having to ask pupils to self-isolate.

I am very aware that many of you have strong views about COVID-19 and the responses from various authorities, including the school. Please be assured that the school's actions will always be in the best interests of our pupils and staff and that we are having to find a delicate balance between educating as normal and adjusting to these very unusual circumstances.



Winter Jackets

In a world of uncertainty, we can be pretty certain that as we move through the autumn term we are going to be experiencing some colder and wetter weather. The forecast over the next few days is predicting showers potentially over break and lunch times. We will only ask pupils to stay indoors at break or lunch if the weather is particularly bad – it is much better for them to get some fresh air. Please can you ensure that your child/children has an appropriate winter jacket that they can wear over their blazer that will keep them warm and dry over the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes.



Jeremy Scott
Headteacher