



23 September 2020

Dear Parent

Update for parents

I wanted to write to you with some important updates. I would be grateful if you would take time to read this letter with your child.

COVID-19 and children in school

I am pleased to report that as of today, we have no reported cases of students or staff having tested positive for COVID-19. If this was to change, we would follow government guidance and be given advice on what measures need to be implemented. This may involve having to send classes or year groups home for a period of time and you would be notified if this affects your child. Any updates would also be provided on our website.

Our website article '[School Arrangements September 2020 and exciting updates on new facilities](#)' contains links to the current government guidance for schools, parents and families, this includes a [flowchart](#) to help you. The main messages remain as below unless we are notified of any changes.

1. Symptoms of COVID-19 are regarded as:

- a new continuous cough – this is classed by NHS as being 'coughing a lot for more than an hour', or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- a high temperature – of more than 37.8 degrees Celsius
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell - NHS class this as being a 'a child has noticed they cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal'

We have been asked for clarity regarding when a student has received a negative COVID test. A negative result means the test did not find coronavirus at the time of the test. Your child does not need to self-isolate and can return to school if their test is negative, as long as:

- everyone you live with who has symptoms tests negative
- your child was not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace or by the school
- your child feels well – if they feel unwell, stay at home until they're feeling better

We ask that you use the flowchart on our website to help you with the decision making and contact our attendance team if you are still unsure.



Work for students who are self-isolating

We are currently creating work packs for students who need to self-isolate. These will be on our website for you to download and use at home and will be updated every half term. Due to staff being in school teaching students who are in the building, it is not possible for them to teach students online who are unable to attend, therefore the resources which will be on our website from **Wednesday 30 September** will be used for students at home. This work will be the equivalent of 10 days study. In the event of needing to send home classes, year groups or even the whole school, we will move to delivering online learning as we did during the initial lockdown period, and further information would be provided to you.

Uniform

All students should now be in full school uniform. We are aware of a very small number of cases where this has not been possible. We shall now be issuing sanctions to students who are not in the correct uniform where we are not aware of any mitigating circumstances, including for PE kit.

Facilities and teaching

We are delighted to announce that we will have full use of the new building from the end of October. This will see us moving a whole year group into the new facilities, which will relieve pressure on the current site and enable those closest to taking examinations the opportunity to access specialist facilities. We are currently reviewing the school day arrangements and will write to you with any changes that may be implemented before the half term break. Any changes we make will be based on the experience of the first few weeks of term and would only be made if it improves the quality of provision for staff and students.

Face Masks

I have received requests from parents for children to wear face masks in school. As before, this is entirely optional at this time for all staff and students. We will respond to any changes, either locally or nationally, as advised.

Opportunities Programme

We are hoping to start some after school clubs as soon as possible, which will run in year group bubbles. This will include a range of sports activities on our wonderful all-weather pitch. I will be in touch with you as soon as this has been finalised.

Parent Events

All parent events will currently be taking place online and we are determined to provide you with a high-quality experience to help support your child's progress in school. Further information will be sent out shortly.

Events (Inter-House, Intra-House and Curriculum)

Inter-House, Intra-House and Curriculum events have always been a really positive and rewarding feature of school life with hundreds of students getting involved. Students are not only given Achievement Points for taking part but also for their support. We have reviewed the events for this term and made some minor tweaks so that these can still be offered within the current constraints. These will be promoted through our House Achievement Coordinators and form tutors in the first instance. Please encourage your child to get involved.

Thank you for your on-going support,

MEgwuma

Ms Egwuma
Head of School