



Important notices

Dear Parent / Carer,

Vital clothing for school

Part of our current commitment to keeping all members of the community safe, students are expected to be outside for break except in an extreme weather situation. Therefore as we progress into the colder winter months we are looking for your support by providing your son / daughter with the following...

- A warm winter coat (students are not allowed to wear hoodies on the school site)
- Gloves, scarf and a hat
- On PE days, tracksuit bottoms and a warm jumper (again no hooded jumpers)

Attendance matters and you can help

We are celebrating that as a school we achieved 95% attendance overall in the first half term. This is a credit to the cleaning team who tirelessly maintained high standards of sanitation and the students for engaging with the changes to the school day and cleaning practices, wearing of masks etc. It is also a credit to you as parents / carers in getting your son / daughter into school and trusting that we are doing the very best for them in terms of managing the risk around potential pathogen transmission.

However, as the weather turns more autumnal and the evenings darker we are now faced by the winter cold / flu season with the ever present concern of Covid hanging over us.

I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce with parents / carers and students that we firmly believe that good student attendance is key to the community recovering from lockdown and securing good choices post 16. As a school we have worked hard to create an environment that is as safe as possible and have strict sanitisation regimes to support the health of our community.

It is important that we differentiate between the symptoms of Covid and other illnesses such as the common cough / cold so that parents can make an informed choice about whether to send your son / daughter into school.

Covid symptoms

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough (3 or more persistent coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you suspect that your child has Covid then please keep them at home and inform the school. You then need to try and arrange a test and isolate for 14 days or until you receive a negative test result.

Symptoms of the common cold

- Blocked or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Coughs
- Sneezes
- Pressure in your ears / face

An important part of life at secondary school is to develop student resilience as they progress towards adulthood and ask that parents support your son / daughter in attending school if they have minor cold symptoms. Our experience is that often once in school students feel better as the day progresses' and are distracted by their lessons and spending time with their friends. We have a first aid room in school where students can come to be assessed by a trained first aider and that member of staff can make a decision to contact parents if we feel your child is too unwell to be in school.

To clarify, if there is any question that your son or daughter has Covid then they should not attend school.

Where they have minor coughs and colds we would like students to attend school possible so we can continue to work with them as they have already missed a lot of school due to the period of lockdown. Students who are absent with a minor cough, cold, sore throat or a headache without other symptoms (for example a fever), the school will record this absence as unauthorised.

Covid Notice

As I am sure you will all be aware the government have announced a further national lockdown starting on Thursday 5th November. As a part of the announcement schools will continue to stay open and we are awaiting more specific guidance from the DfE. Once we have this guidance we will reflect on our current risk assessment and operating procedures and share any changes with parents.

Whilst we are about to enter another phase of increased uncertainty we would like thank all parents for your continued support of us. The first half term was overwhelmingly positive and the students adapted well to the changes which was reflected in our overall attendance being 95%.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Cordwell

Assistant Headteacher

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