



End of half term update

Thu, Oct 21, 2021 at 17:01

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to start by extending a well done to all of our students for what has been a really positive start to the school year. As the first half term draws to an end we are writing to you asking for your support in helping us get off to the next half term on the right foot. Within this communication is a number of notices that we would appreciate you sharing with your young person and where needed taking steps to ensure they are ready to come back in a positive fashion.

Masks

We are sure that all families are aware that covid cases are on the increase. As the we approach the winter months it is important that we continue to be cautious and consider the safety of our community. We are asking that parents ensure their young person has a couple of masks with them each day, so that they can be worn during times when they are moving around in communal spaces.

Uniform reminders

All students should arrive to school each day wearing their blazer. It continues to be an expectation that students wear their blazer when moving around the school building and in lessons. We are also recommending that students bring to school a warm winter coat to wear when outside at break time. We would also appreciate parents revisiting our core uniform expectations with your child in particular piercings and the wearing of appropriate footwear. **Staff will revisit these core standards with students post half term and look to engage students and families to resolve any barriers to uniform concerns.** Full details of our uniform policy can be found on the school website [here](#).

It is also worth noting that we still have some lockers available which students can use to store items such as their winter coat and PE kit when it is not being used during the school day.

Student Wellbeing

We are conscious that as most lessons take place in the main building, therefore students can potentially go all day without getting some fresh air. As a consequence, we will continue with our expectation that students should be outside at break and lunch unless they are eating food in the atrium. Not only does this help community safety as it avoids large groups of students in an enclosed space for an extended period of time. We feel it is also important for student wellbeing that they spend some time outside each day and this further enforces the need for all students to have a warm coat to wear as the temperature drops.

Safe travel to and from school

As we progress in to the winter months we will experience the darker mornings and evenings. Therefore we are asking all parents of children who walk, cycle and scoot to school to consider the

following:

1. Is your child visible? A high visibility vest and or lights on bikes will help motorists identify your child when driving.
2. Is your child wearing a helmet? A helmet is a lifesaving piece of equipment and students should wear one when cycling to and from school. We reserve the right where students repeatedly leave the school site not wearing a helmet we will stop the student from leaving on their bike and the bike will be stored securely until the child can prove they have a helmet.
3. Safe crossing. We have received a number of reports from concerned members of our community who have witnessed students taking unnecessary risks when crossing the road. Students should be reminded to use the appropriate crossing points when crossing the road, rather than put themselves at risk and other road users who may have to take avoiding action / perform an unexpected emergency stop to avoid collision.

We continue to endorse walking, cycling or scooting to school as a part of encouraging students to be more active and to reduce congestion on the surrounding roads. Over the summer we increased our bike rack capacity. However a small number of students have been padlocking their bike to the MUGA (thus leaving handlebars poking through) and the fire exit behind the sports hall presenting a health safety risk, compromising our ability to evacuate the staff and students in the event of an emergency.

As a consequence, all students were briefed in assembly that if they continue to padlock their bikes / scooters to these two areas we will cut the lock and move their bike or scooter.

We would like to thank all families for their ongoing support. We are proud of the way our students have started the year and following what will hopefully be a positive break for everyone, look forward to working with your child in the next half term.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Cordwell

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