



COVID update

Dear Parent/Carer

Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health for West Sussex has today advised all secondary school head teachers that they should **'reintroduce the requirement for students to wear face coverings in communal areas in schools, unless they are exempt, whether there are currently COVID -19 cases in school or not'**. This decision is based on that fact that the latest data indicates that parts of West Sussex have some of the highest rates in the country amongst young people.

The advice matches the practice we have been following since our return in September but I would like to use it as an opportunity to ask you to make sure your child is equipped daily with a mask (and a spare) for school. At the same time please could you reinforce the expectation that they wear them moving around our buildings, when in our communal spaces and if on public transport travelling to and from school.

We will over the next couple of days' revisit with all students our expectations around masks, hand sanitising, classroom ventilation, social distancing and the ways they can support our cleaning regime. In addition, as the weather turns colder please also make sure your child has a suitable coat because we will still be expecting all students to go outside at break and lunch to get fresh air once they have been served in the canteen and eaten their food.

Since the start of the pandemic we have been extremely grateful to have had excellent parental support for our school measures, a high uptake of the vaccination offer and good participation in regular twice weekly testing along with swift exchanges of information and movement into isolation when positive cases have occurred. These all remain of paramount importance. We have also been able to use our modern facilities to maximise ventilation and cleaning procedures. I am certain that for these reasons, aligned no doubt with some luck, we have been fortunate so far to have only experienced relatively low outbreak levels in school.

Going forward we have some events and trips coming up that we currently intend to run as planned but will keep under review and given the fluctuation in rates there is a need to be prepared that there could be last minute changes.

Thank you again for your support which has enabled the vast majority of students this term to receive face to face learning from their normal teachers in a safe environment. Please do discuss the content of this letter with your child.

Yours faithfully

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