

30 September

Dear Parent/carer

So far we have not had any positive Covid test for students or staff. Several students have been off school and been tested but all have come back negative. This is obviously encouraging and reflects the relatively low level of the virus in the local area and the measures we have taken.

However, it is likely that at some point a member of staff or a student will test positive as has happened in lots of schools. Where this is the case we will follow PHE guidance and our own protocols to trace who may have been in close contact so that those students and staff will need to isolate and if they show symptoms then get a test.

To help to manage these circumstances it might be that we ask students in a particular year group to wear a face covering as an additional measure while this process is concluded and because we will always seek consent from parents/ carers before sending any student home and this takes time. Consequently I am asking that all students make sure that they bring a face covering to school each day for the eventuality as described above. Face coverings can be plain or patterned but must not carry offensive slogans or inappropriate images.

We have continued to introduce small changes to our arrangements for movement around school. These are working well including Year 9 students entering school for 8.45am via the gates by the new building. Further changes mean that students are now able to have some of their science lessons in science labs which marks a further step forward.

From Monday 5 October we are making a further change. This is for Year 11 students to arrive for 8.55am rather than the later time of 9.05am so that we can re-introduce a short tutor time for Year 11 students. This will mean that they meet with their tutor each morning for notices and for support as necessary. We and they have missed this so far this term so it is pleasing that we can now re-instate this. This change retains a staggered start with Year 9, 10 and 12 students arriving for 8.45am and Y13 for 9.05am.

These are challenging times for everybody but I must commend students on the exemplary way in which they are responding. Students are conducting themselves very well and as we would expect and are following all of the measures to help reduce the risk of transmission.

Throughout these difficult few weeks your support has been hugely appreciated. I understand the concerns raised in a small number of cases and we will continue to engage to improve arrangements in the light of feedback where this is practicable.

Your feedback, whether positive or pointing out where we can do better, is important and always considered carefully. Please keep it coming in and do not hesitate to make contact if you have any questions.

Best wishes



Tim Carroll