

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Further to Mr Cleaver's letter to you earlier this week, I write to once again thank you for your support over the last week as we welcomed our students back into school. The students have settled well and have quickly become accustomed to the zones and bubbles. It has been a real joy for me to walk around the school and see them learning and our fantastic teachers teaching.

Our Year 11 and 13 intervention programmes begin next week. These sessions are crucial as they provide extra teaching to support pupils in preparing for their exams in the summer.

### **Face Coverings in School**

We have taken time over the past two weeks to review the measures we have implemented and our risk assessment. In addition to this, the Local Authority have advised that they strongly recommend that from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September secondary school age pupils wear face coverings in communal areas in school, such as corridors and social spaces. They are advising this as a pre-emptive measure for Coventry due to the national rise in cases. We intend to follow their guidance.

Therefore, from this Monday (14<sup>th</sup> September) we will be strongly recommending that staff and pupils wear face coverings as they move between lessons and at break times in corridors and heart spaces. They will be free to remove their face covering in classrooms and in outdoor social spaces if they wish. We would prefer that students provide their own face covering (this could be a mask or visor), although the school does have a stock of washable face coverings that we are happy to provide to students who do not have their own. We recognise that we have a small number of students for whom wearing a face covering is not appropriate due to underlying conditions and we will be happy to talk to them and you if this is the case.

Parents should note the importance of washing the face covering daily. Alongside this, for students who are wearing a face covering while travelling to school, the face covering worn in school should be a different one. Over the next few school days we will show the students how to properly put on and take off their face covering to further reduce the risk of transmission.

### **What if my child or someone in my household has Covid-19 Symptoms?**

A reminder that any students that have Covid symptoms **must stay at home** until they receive a negative test result and the school has confirmed it is okay for them to return to school. **Students must also stay at home if any member of the household has symptoms.**

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back;
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms please contact us and we can advise on the next steps.

To enable the very small number of students who are having to self-isolate stay up to date with their learning, all work that is being completed in lessons is now also being uploaded onto the class 'Teams' (Microsoft Teams). This has the additional benefit of enabling parents to see the work students are undertaking in school and better support them with homework. Homework will also be added to Teams so that students have a backup (they will still write it in their planner). It is therefore really important that students remember their log in and are able to access Teams at home. Teams can be accessed via any device (a phone, tablet, laptop or computer). If your son or daughter has any issues accessing Teams please contact us and we will support you in resolving it as fast as we can.

**Drop off and Pick Up**

Our staggered start and end times at different entrances is working well and a huge thanks to you for your support. However, we have been asked by Public Health to advise parents to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up pupils. In addition to this, we feel it would further reduce risk and make the exit to school much easier if all parents who collect their child from school could arrange a suitable meeting place a little further away from the school gates to avoid overcrowding at the gates.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Mr C Jupp**  
**Headteacher**

