



OLDFIELD SCHOOL

27th August 2020

Dear Parents Carers,

This is my final letter to you before the start of term regarding changes to school procedures in response to COVID-19. This letter will provide some additional detail on some of the measures outlined in the school's COVID risk assessment, which is available on the school website.

Before doing so I want to explain the school's position with regards to face coverings. You will be aware that these will now be mandatory in schools where local lockdown measures are in place, in schools where this is not the case their use is discretionary. We had already taken the decision that if parents want their child to wear a face covering in school then we would allow this, but we were not mandating this. This position has not changed; however, we are now going to insist that students wear a face covering when they are in their indoor social spaces at break or lunchtime, they will not be wearing a face covering when eating but should do so if sitting in groups socialising. We will not insist on their use when moving between lessons, other than in some high use areas, as this will mean that students are removing and replacing face masks frequently during the day and just before entering a classroom and this could undermine our hand washing routines. Therefore, when students are entering the main building or old science block at a lesson change they will be expected to wear a face covering until they enter their class, at which point they will sanitise their hands when they enter the room, after removing the face covering. We will also not insist on their use when in lessons as when in classrooms students will not be facing each other. If a student chooses to wear a face covering in a lesson then we would expect that they would wear this at all times when indoors to reduce the frequency of removing / replacing the covering.

The first assembly of the year for Years 7 to 11 will be in either the main hall or sports hall, this will be the only time that we will be doing this as all following assemblies will be virtual. We will be insisting that students wear a face covering for this assembly; therefore, all students will need to bring a face covering with them from the first day of term to use for this assembly and when in an indoor social area. In addition, students will require a small bag to store their face covering in when not in use. We are aware that a small number of students will not be able to wear masks for medical reasons.

I would also like to update you on our enhanced cleaning measures. We will continue to employ an external cleaning company who will clean all rooms and communal areas each day; this takes place outside school hours. However, we felt that it was important that we have cleaning available during school hours and, to this end, have increased our site team so that toilet facilities can be cleaned frequently throughout the day and high use surfaces such as door handles, key pads and banisters can be sanitised regularly. We have also invested in an electrostatic cleaner which will enable us to perform two essential tasks, disinfect areas of high use and those with soft furnishings through the



OLDFIELD
SCHOOL

use of a non-toxic disinfectant which adheres to all surfaces and bond an anti-viral agent to surfaces which has been proven effective up to 28 days. Equipment in the Tech department will be sanitised between uses by various methods such as pot washing at high temperatures and the use of industrial steam cleaning equipment. We have also installed wall-mounted hand sanitizing units in every room of the school which dispense a sanitizing gel with a high alcohol content. However, we are aware that not all students and staff can use this gel for medical reasons so we also have an alternative hand and surface sanitizer available in all rooms which does not contain alcohol. This will also be used by the children to wipe down their desks at the start and end of each lesson.

Please may I also remind you at this time that it is essential that you do not send your child into school if they are exhibiting any symptoms of coronavirus ie a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees Celsius), a new continuous cough, a loss of or change to their sense of smell and taste. If they do have any of these symptoms or anyone else in their household does, they should be tested immediately and kept at home. If they fall ill with any of these symptoms while at school, they will be held in isolation and you will be called and asked to collect them if they are unable to walk home.

I am sure that you will understand that these measures, along with all the others in place to minimise mixing and contact, cannot completely eliminate risk but I am confident that working together we can minimise any risks and ensure that students and staff can return to an environment which is as safe and secure as possible next week.

Yours faithfully

Steven Mackay
Headteacher