

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter another period of lockdown I am aware of the pressures that this will place on your family and the concerns that you may have with regards to ensuring the safety and well-being of your children at school. It is the intention of the Government to keep schools and other educational settings open over this period of lockdown and additional guidance has been sent to schools which will result in some changes to the COVID-19 measures that we have in place at Oldfield School.

#### Face masks

The most significant of these is that students across the country are now required to wear masks inside when in all corridors and communal areas. You will know that we have already implemented this measure in some parts of the school. In addition, we will now be asking students to wear face coverings inside all buildings at all times and this will include in classrooms. The only exception to this will be in the dining areas specified for each year group. When in lessons students will be allowed to remove/move their face coverings to answer questions from their teachers and teachers will not be required to wear face coverings when they are teaching. In addition, students will not have to wear face coverings in PE lessons or when performing in drama lessons.

Given that students will now be wearing a face covering for most of the day when they are in school it is important that they have a clean or new (if single use) mask each day and also that they carry a spare mask with them every day. We will continue to provide washable masks (at a price of £1) for students if they forget/lose their mask. A small number of students are exempt from wearing masks and this will continue to be the case. Students will be reminded to wear masks if they are seen without these when inside. However, sanctions will be used if a student repeatedly does not wear their mask when inside or if they refuse to do so when asked.

#### Uniform

We will continue to ensure that all indoor spaces are well ventilated. This will, increasingly, mean that students will need to wear additional layers of clothing in lessons. We are allowing students to wear coats in class and will now be allowing them to wear a grey, black or dark blue sweatshirt or jumper. These cannot be worn instead of a blazer so should only be worn to substitute or complement a school jumper. Hoodies are not allowed to be worn during the school day; ties must also be worn at all times.

#### After school activities

The new guidance states that after school activities cannot take place during the lockdown period unless they are educational or training related. Initially schools' interpretation of this guidance was that this would mean that after school sports and music clubs could not take place and this information may have been shared with your child earlier this week by their PE or music teacher.

However I am pleased to confirm that we will be able to continue with all of our sports and music clubs as they are linked to the curriculum. Therefore the previously published calendar of after school sports and music clubs will continue during the lockdown period. Key stage 3 students attending after school clubs may not travel home on the OS buses that depart at 3:45 in order to keep these bubbles separate.

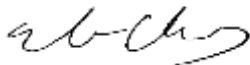
#### Attendance

Regarding attendance, all students are expected to attend school during lockdown unless they are clinically extremely vulnerable. The guidance from the Department of Education is that most children who were originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow shielding advice. Parents are advised to speak with their child's GP or specialist clinician to determine whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. If you are advised that your child is still clinically extremely vulnerable they should not attend school while the national restrictions are in place. If this is the case then you must inform the school's attendance team and home learning arrangements will be put in place. These will be the same arrangements for when individual students are self-isolating. If a member of your household is clinically extremely vulnerable then your child should still attend school. If you wish to discuss the implications of this guidance with someone at the school then please contact the attendance team in the first instance.

We will continue to do all that we can to ensure that your child's school experience is a positive and rewarding one and that they are able to continue their learning in as safe and secure an environment as possible.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Mackay  
**Headteacher**