

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well and that you are staying safe in these challenging times. I am writing to give you an update on the Covid-19 situation and how it has affected our school. To date we have had very few positive cases of Covid-19 and where this has happened pupils have been sent home to self-isolate as per Government guidelines.

Work will be set through Microsoft Teams – do please insist that your daughter/son completes the work and participates in the lessons.

May I remind you that as a school we encourage the Government’s key message of “hands, face, space” – wash hands frequently, wear a face mask in public spaces and keep a distance. I have outlined some key messages below:

#### **Face Coverings**

It is mandatory that students wear face coverings in secondary schools. Please ensure that your child brings theirs to school daily. Those students with medical evidence for mask exemptions have been issued with a pass.

#### **Uniform**

As part of our risk assessment to reduce the spread of the virus, classrooms must have their windows open during lessons. As we move into the winter this is likely to result in classrooms being colder. We are, therefore, reminding students to wear the school jumper under blazers to help keep out the chills and draughts. Additionally, students who wish to wear their coat to school and whilst outdoors when out of school should wear it over and not instead of their blazer.

#### **PE Kit**

We will continue to allow students to wear their PE kit to school on days when they have practical PE lessons. Blazers should be worn over the PE kit and students should wear their school shoes, not trainers, on the days when they are in school uniform.

#### **Equipment**

We expect students to bring their own pencil case equipped with pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, mathematical equipment, and a calculator. There are equipped pencil cases available to purchase via Parentpay at a cost of £1.65.

#### **Class Charts**

In the last academic year, we have introduced a behaviour monitoring system that has the opportunity for parents to download the app which allows monitoring of their own child. Your child will be bringing home a letter sharing the personal log in detail for Class Charts and we encourage you to access this as soon as possible

## **Attendance**

Congratulations to those students whose attendance is 100%, or close to it. We recognise that the current pandemic has placed a strain upon people's health but urge you to ensure your child attends regularly. Though for those children who have had to self-isolate this is not recorded as an absence.

It is parents' legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Ideally, a young person should aim for 100% attendance at school and our annual target attendance figure is 97%. The reason we want students to have good attendance is that any absence from school disrupts a child's education. Young people who do not attend school regularly:

- Do not achieve their best possible academic outcomes
- Do not engage with the full range of educational opportunities available to them
- Compromise their future educational and employment opportunities
- Find it difficult to maintain friendships

Frequent school absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and this can disadvantage your child in adult life. The table below shows clearly how absence is likely to impact on progress.

Attendance during one school year	Number of weeks absence	Number of school days absence	Number of lessons missed
95%	2	9	49
90%	4	19	98
85%	6	29	147
80%	8	38	196

Once again, can I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of your child and the school. As we move further into the winter season of colds and influenza we may see the problem increase. Please continue to protect yourselves, follow the Government's advice and do not hesitate to contact school if you wish to discuss any concerns about Covid-19 or any other issue.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Costello  
Headteacher