

TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Our Ref: SKN/lha

2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the half term break it will have been difficult to avoid the news of rising cases of Coronavirus across the country and within our own region. In Bristol, whereas the number of cases per 100,000 at the start of September was in single figures, it is now approaching 400 cases per 100,000 people in the city. In South Gloucestershire the figure is now over 200 cases per 100,000 and increasing.

You will also know that the Government has issued guidance that from Thursday 5th November everyone in England should stay at home unless they have to leave for specific purposes, effectively moving the country into a second lockdown. The current guidance is that schools, colleges and universities will remain open during this time, and I would like to take this opportunity to offer you and your family support. If we can help in any way during these unprecedented times please do use the email address at the end of this letter to reach out.

Public Health England remain happy with the measures we have taken to mitigate risk and there is hardly any evidence of transmission taking place in schools locally. As you might expect, we have been monitoring the situation closely over the half term break. In keeping with the dynamic review of risk we have maintained throughout, we have been carefully considering what steps we may take as an Academy in conjunction with health and safety guidance from our Trust, to continue to further mitigate the threat of Coronavirus in our schools in order to keep students and staff as safe as possible.

It remains the case that the most effective measures in terms of COVID safety are to maintain social distancing, with staff and students ensuring that they **do not risk passing infection to each other, either by occupying the same sub-2 metre space, or by using the same equipment without wiping down surfaces**. After a break from the Academy environment, it is imperative that we all take personal responsibility for being alert to social distancing and to reminding staff and students in the spirit of shared responsibility for the health and safety of all. Here are some reminders:

- **Do not allow your child to attend** the Academy if they have COVID-19 symptoms;
- **Wash and / or sanitise** your hands regularly;
- Follow good respiratory hygiene using the Catch it, Bin it, Kill it methodology;
- **Keep Left, Keep Moving, Keep Apart** when moving around the Academy and in the community;
- Follow the various **one-way systems in operation**;
- **Do not interact** with other Year Groups and **keep 2m away from adults** at all times;
- Clean tables, chairs and any equipment used **thoroughly**;
- Bring all essential equipment **every day** to reduce sharing / lending of equipment;
- Ensure **windows/doors are open** wherever possible;
- Wear **PE kit** to the Academy on days you have your PE lessons.

So far this year, while people have been able to choose to wear face coverings, we have neither encouraged nor mandated the wearing of face coverings up to this point. Given the recent Government announcement and rising local infection rates, it would now be in line with Public Health and Government guidance for **students and staff in secondary schools** to wear face coverings **when moving around the building and at social times, though not during learning episodes in classrooms**.

Please familiarise yourself with the guidance below from our own Health and Safety team and discuss this with your child. If wearing face coverings in secondary settings, there are safe procedures for putting on and taking them off to avoid transmission of the COVID virus - this **must be** followed. All staff and students will be shown a video for correctly putting on and taking off their masks safely.

- Wash/sanitise hands before handling and putting on a mask / covering
- Adjust to fit and ensure it covers nose mouth and chin
- Ensure if using a fabric mask it is washed daily, or replace if disposable
- When removing make sure you remove it using the straps and store in a sealable plastic bag
- Wash/sanitise hands after handling and taking of a mask / covering
- Do not put face covering down on surfaces
- Do not share masks / coverings - they are for **individual use only**

I am aware that recent announcements and increased infection rates locally may be causing some anxiety with yourselves and our young people. We will be offering support to our students but if you feel you need support at any point and for any reason please do reach out using the following email address:

HWACovid@clf.uk

Can I also take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mr S T Kneller
Academy Principal