

11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start by asking you to share my congratulations and thanks to our wonderful students on their return to school. Their approach to the new ways of working and the operational changes to the site have been phenomenal and the way in which they have settled back in to their learning has been fantastic to see. I'm sure you appreciate how much time and effort went in to planning the return to school for our students, but it was time well spent.

Attendance has sat over 97% each day and we have had very few issues. We are, as you would expect, supporting some students via remote learning as they are unable to attend school as yet due to serious medical conditions. We will continue to try to support all of our families to the best of our abilities over the coming months. As I have stated in previous communications with you the main emphasis for our return has been on trying to keep things as normal as possible in terms of the timings and routines that students are used to. This has worked really well and we have been able to tweak our operational plan over the last few days as everyone has got used to being taught in a zone. We have managed to significantly reduce the amount of movement around the school and the levels of congestion in corridors as students and staff get used to this new way of working.

Thank you for your patience regarding our dining arrangements and other changes we have had to make regarding meetings etc. I have asked for reminders to go out all parents and carers regarding online food ordering to ensure that no student is left without something to eat.

As you know, staff are working across bubbles in order to deliver the best possible lessons and so far this has worked positively with staff and students being able to maintain their social distancing. Students have settled well with their new tutors and their attitudes in class have been superb. I have visited each zone and can honestly tell you that our students approach to learning has not been hampered by the changes we have made or by the restrictions placed upon us by COVID-19.

I know that our new way of working will take some time to fully evolve and we have already made some changes to ensure easier flow out of the gates at the end of the day. I will continue to monitor our operational plan and procedures on a daily basis and draw upon the expertise and experience of our wider Trust. Indeed, two of our Trust schools will be introducing the mandatory wearing of facemasks in communal areas due to the nature of their school building. We are currently not in a position where I feel we would need to do the same as we have a site which can be well zoned to maintain the integrity of year group bubbles. However, this will be reviewed on a regular basis and you will be kept informed of any changes. I'd also like to remind you that should your child wish to wear a face mask in school then they may do so. It is important that they maintain their mask properly and use it in the most hygienic way.

You will be aware of the new changes introduced by the Government from Monday regarding social distancing and group sizes. We have impressed upon our students the importance of social distancing outside of school as this could threaten the integrity of our year group bubbles. Please reinforce this message with your children.

Included below is key information from the Local Authority regarding how to react to a suspected COVID-19 case, please can you ensure that you follow this guidance as it is absolutely vital in order to keep our school and community safe. I understand that there may be some confusion or indecision on whether to get tested or inform the school or even send your child in etc. However, in order to keep our school as safe as possible you must follow the guidelines and must keep us informed.

1. The following are now recognised symptoms of COVID-19:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
  - a high temperature
  - a new, continuous cough
  - a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste
2. If your child has these recognised symptoms, you must inform the school on **0117 456 5900** and then arrange for them to get tested. You can book a free coronavirus (COVID-19) test through the [online booking portal](#). This will then give you a range of testing options available in your local area. These are:
  - test centre – booking a test at a drive-in test centre is likely to be the fastest way to get a test and the nearest ones in South Gloucestershire are: Bristol (Bristol Airport) or Gloucester (Hempstead Meadow) [online booking portal](#)
  - home test kit – parents or carers can order a home test kit for their child or young person [online booking portal](#)
3. All schools, including our own have been given a very limited stock of home test kits. These will **only** be issued to parents and carers for a child or young person in exceptional circumstances. If you have access as a parent or carer to the internet at home, it would be expected that you would book a test through the online portal in the first instance please.
4. We ask that if your child is symptomatic and has a test, if this is negative, you must still notify the school immediately of the outcome on **0117 456 5900**. We will then notify Public Health South Gloucestershire to update their records in line with their standard operating procedures.
5. We ask that if your child is symptomatic and has a test, if this is positive, you must notify the school immediately of the outcome on **0117 456 5900**. We will then notify Public Health South Gloucestershire, the Education department of the Council and the regional PHE health protection team to advise anyone who has come into close contact with your child to self-isolate in line with national guidance; this will be managed sensitively.
6. If there were to be any confirmed case with a child or young person in our school, then our leaders will work with Public Health South Gloucestershire, the Education department of the Council and the regional PHE health protection team to advise anyone who has come into close contact with the confirmed case to self-isolate in line with national guidance.

Once again thank you for sending your children in to school it has been great to welcome them back!

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Anderson**  
**Principal**