

22 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your understanding and support over what has been a very unusual half term. It has been lovely to receive so many positive emails and messages from parents who appreciate the 'extra mile' that staff are going. Many of you will be aware from our communications that staff have been working relentlessly to ensure parents are kept well informed with regards to self-isolation procedures and that quality 'live lessons' are taking place.

Some parents may already be aware that in the event of a child having to self-isolate, we have been issued with standard letters from Public Health England, which we circulate immediately. We have then been advised to follow this with a text which identifies your child's last point of contact with the confirmed case, to ensure no one is having to self-isolate for longer than is required.

We have been able to provide 'live lessons' this week through Teams for the vast majority of our students in Year 8 and Year 10. We appreciate this is not as effective as being in the classroom, but it is allowing staff to model and scaffold learning and for students to then be able to apply their new knowledge. Feedback so far from parents, students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive.

We have been extremely lucky to have managed seven full weeks of uninterrupted learning for the vast majority of our students. However, this week has seen us having to adapt and review our practice and put in place additional short-term preventative measures, in order to keep your child in school. Please be aware that the directive from Public Health England is for schools to employ a more rigorous process to identify students who have been in close contact with a confirmed case, so that entire year groups do not have to self-isolate for 14 days. The criteria that defines close contact is based upon the distance and duration of contact between two people. With this in mind, the Leadership Team are currently working on the below strategies which will help support this process and minimise student contact across classes, sectors and year groups.

Deep Clean over Half Term

Although we haven't been advised to do so, we are conducting a deep clean over the upcoming holiday. We feel this is a further precautionary measure to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 in the school community.

Set Seating Plans in Lessons – To Begin During the Week Commencing 2 November

Staff are being asked to utilise the same set seating plan for each class (where possible), so that in the event of a confirmed case we can easily identify those students who are classed as 'close contact'. In order to further safeguard staff and students, we are installing clear screens on the teacher's desks where it is difficult to maintain a two-metre distance.

Seating Plans at Lunch – To Begin During the Week Commencing 2 November

Students will be able to choose who they have lunch with and where they sit. However, we will be asking them to remain in these same friendship bubbles daily whilst they are sat in the dining hall.



Wearing of Face Masks

We will be removing the temporary implementation of face masks in lessons. In the event that we have to reintroduce this precaution, we will ensure that parents are given adequate notice. We are hopeful that the other measures we intend to introduce after half term will reduce possible transmission during lesson time. We would, however, ask for parents/carers to ensure that their child has a suitable face mask to be worn at all times while in communal areas of the school. Sanctions will be issued to students that do not have their own face mask or are refusing to wear one in communal areas. We appreciate that some students are exempt from wearing a face mask and they will not be challenged by staff. We appreciate the additional financial implications for some families, we are therefore happy to provide your child with a reusable face mask if needed. Please email admin@hungerhillschool.com to request this.

PE Lessons – To Begin During the Week of the 19 October

We have had to review how we operate PE lessons in order to ensure students still get a quality experience, whilst minimising their contact across entire sectors. Students will now work in smaller same sex class size bubbles, where we are able to monitor contact more rigorously.

PE Kit – To Begin During the Week Commencing 2 November

We promised to monitor and review our PE uniform during the first half term in order to maintain basic standards across school and enable enjoyable, productive practical lessons to take place. While the majority of students have followed our protocol, some are still not adhering to the required standards. In order to establish greater clarity across school and enjoy more dynamic and flexible PE lessons, we will now allow students to attend school in PE kit on both days where they have practical lessons. They will however, be required to wear their blazer over the top of their white PE top. This will establish greater consistency in uniform standards and enable a more appropriate PE curriculum to be delivered. As from the 2 November, students can now come to school in PE kit on both timetabled days, however, as above, they must wear their blazer.

Free School Meals

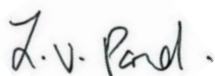
We are pleased to confirm that the Chief Executive and the Major of Doncaster Council has made the decision to provide vouchers over the holiday for families in receipt of Free School Meals. Arrangements have been put in place for these to be distributed via email on Monday 26 October.

If, as a result of changes to your circumstances, you wish to apply for Free School Meals, please use the link to the Doncaster Council website below

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/doitonline/free-school-meals>

We appreciate the half term holiday will not be as we all expected, but we hope you are able to enjoy some quality family time after a very different, but productive start to the academic year.

Take care and stay safe.



Mrs L Pond
Headteacher



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