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Dear Parents/Carers,

Upon our return to school after the Easter holidays on Monday 12 April, we will hopefully be commencing step 2 of the governments 'roadmap out of lockdown'. In school we will be implementing some changes to coincide with this as we continue our own return to a normal functioning school.

## **Testing**

As you will be aware, upon notification of a positive coronavirus test for a student, we conduct a 'track and trace' to identify 'close contacts' who are instructed to self-isolate in line with government guidance. As a school we continue to review our safety measures alongside Public Health England recommendations. Our 'bubbles', staggered start/finish and lunch arrangements are some of the strategies we have put in place. Additionally, upon return from the most recent lockdown, we have strongly encouraged the wearing of face coverings, initiated mass Lateral Flow testing and have also reviewed our seating arrangements in classrooms to reduce the number of close contacts and subsequently the number of other students impacted. However, when following up on a positive result, we are finding an increasing number of close contacts being reported through 'social time'. We must stress the **governments 'rule of six'.** Students should be limiting the group sizes they are gathering in when journeying to and from school, during breaks/lunchtimes and out of school. We will continue to reinforce this in school and when receiving notification of a positive result will ask students for the details of up to 5 of their close social contacts from the previous 48 hours who will be informed of the requirement to self-isolate along with others identified through classroom contact.

## Wellbeing

We have launched a new section on our website to coincide with the return to on-site education that focuses on student mental health and

wellbeing <u>https://www.hungerhillschool.com/page/?title=Student+Mental+Health&pid=336</u> Additionally, over the course of the next thirteen weeks, students will be encouraged to participate in a range of departmental wellbeing challenges. The series of activities will encourage students to:

- Work together as a team and connect with their peers,
- Be physically active,
- Learn new skills,
- Give something back to their community,
- Pay attention to the moment (giving time to think about their thoughts and feelings)

More details will be communicated in due course and on twitter @hungerhill



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## We are EAGER to achieve our best!

At Hungerhill we aim to promote our Core Values (*Resilience, Excellence, Care, Respect and Honesty*) as we believe they are the fundamental attributes our students require to meet the challenges of the modern world and enable them to make a valuable contribution to society.

Additionally, we feel that setting and upholding the highest expectations of our students ensures we can cultivate a positive learning environment and instil important traits transferable to all elements of life. Since our return to school, we have worked with staff to identify the areas that we will be expecting all students to demonstrate as a non-negotiable. We are reassured that for most of our students, these are already embedded and demonstrated daily but for the minority for who challenge these expectations we will clearly be defining what is meant below and in assembly with students on Friday morning. This was recorded and uploaded to Teams for those students unable to attend due to self-isolation.

# <u>**E**</u> have high **Expectations** of yourself- all students take responsibility for their actions.

We want all students to be the very best versions of themselves, understanding right from wrong and that anything can be achieved through hard work. We all have the power to make decisions: Whether we decide to make the right decisions solely depend on us. We are responsible for our actions and want our students to take ownership for theirs, always upholding our Core Values.

# **A** with a smart **Appearance** - all students wear the school uniform smartly & with pride.

In relation to student appearance, we feel that since our return from the most recent lockdown that these standards have slipped slightly and want to take this opportunity to address this. <u>Hoodies are not</u> <u>permitted</u>; school shoes must be worn (except on PE days – see below) please see the school website if you are unsure of any of the uniform expectations.

https://www.hungerhillschool.com/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=66

The PE curriculum switches to its summer programme after Easter, meaning that weather permitting all lessons will take place outdoors. We will therefore be implementing some changes to the uniform expectations on PE days, which are in line with our pre-covid school uniform policy. From Monday 12 April, students should continue to attend school in full school uniform on all days when they do not have PE lessons.

**On PE days** – Given the nature of the activities being taught and the expected improvements in weather there will be refinements made to what can be worn on PE days.

## **Gender Neutral PE Wear**

## Upper body

Only white polo shirts are permitted (red rugby shirts and school branded tracksuit tops may be brought to wear in lessons on cooler days). Only additional layers permitted are the school V-Neck jumpers. **Blazers are to be worn.** 

## Lower body

Students will be able to choose from one of the three options below. Please note – no tracksuit bottoms are permitted for general wear around school at any time. Option 1) – Shorts and trainers or,



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Option 3) - Appropriate black sports leggings. Shorts may be worn over the top. A blazer <u>must be worn</u> upon arrival and throughout the day unless permitted to be removed by a member of staff.

**G** adopt **Good** routines - all students attend all lessons on time, fully equipped and follow class routines. The last 12 months have certainly challenged our routines in every aspect of our lives. We are all aware the important role that school plays in establishing routines, and for many students, the lockdowns have destabilised these. It is as important as ever that students attend every day to avoid any further lost learning time. *This includes when self-isolating, accessing lessons remotely via Microsoft Teams.* Students with attendance of 80% or less will miss a whole 2 years from school. Being late for school reduces learning time. Students who are 5 minutes late every day will miss three days of learning each year! When in school, we have clear lesson routines which will be reinforced with students in classes. However, we have found some students returning to school without the basic equipment required such as pens, pencils, rulers etc. It is essential, again due to our inability to share due to restrictions, that all students attend every day with the equipment they require.

# **<u>E Engage</u>** in our learning - all students are to be active participants in their learning.

We don't simply want students to be in lessons, we want them to be interested, attentive and absorbed in their learning. As *active participants*, students complete work to their best of their ability, take pride in their work and show resilience to learn and overcome difficulties. We want students to contribute to lessons appropriately and ben keen to share answers and opinions, taking part in healthy discussions. No student should be passive.

**<u>R</u>** show **Respect** for all - all students show respect to their peers and all adults.

Although one of our existing core values, it is felt important that as we all continue to find our own ways of coping with the challenges of the pandemic that we continue to be kind to each other, showing humility and respect. We are incredibly proud of our students and the attributes they show and we want to ensure that the mutual respect shown within our community continues to shine.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. All students should complete a Lateral Flow Test on the evening of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April to support the safe return for the summer term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Parker-Browne Deputy Headteacher

Mr P Storey Deputy Headteacher



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