

11 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

COVID-19 Update September 2020

We were thrilled to welcome our students back into school last week! For parents of students who are new to us, a particular warm welcome too! As you may be aware, the Government has recently announced a tier-based system which will be adopted in schools should local 'spikes' occur during this Covid-19 pandemic. An outline of each tier can be found in the appendix to this letter. It is important to note that tiers 3 & 4 are the same for secondary schools and sixth form colleges. Closures take effect from tier 2 onwards.

- Tiered intervention 3/4 will result in a full school closure with only the children of critical worker employees and students classed as vulnerable permitted to be on site.
- Tiered intervention 2 will see our school adopt a two week rota, apart from the children of critical worker employees and students classed as vulnerable, who will be permitted on site full time.

The Department for Education (DfE) has rightly asked schools to put contingency plans into place so that there is minimal disruption to teaching and learning in the event of any of the above scenarios. We have been working hard to do exactly this, and I include a detailed outline of our plans, below.

Tiered intervention 3/4: full school closure:

*This will trigger an immediate transition to remote learning. Teaching staff will seek to ensure that students participate in **at least** one remote, live lesson with each of their classes every week. Where students only have one timetabled lesson each week in a particular subject, they will participate in a live lesson at least once per fortnight. Students and staff will continue to follow their school timetable in planning for the delivery of live teaching. This will typically comprise of 40 minutes of teaching followed by 20 minutes of independent work. Staff will use Zoom or Google Meets to deliver live lessons. Where a live lesson is not scheduled, staff will set a voice-over PowerPoint (or similar), containing direct instruction. Students will be set work through their class Google Classroom page where live teaching during a timetabled lesson cannot take place. This will always be accessible on Google Classroom for the start of the timetabled lesson. Please note that students will be expected to register live with their tutor each morning at 8.40am, helping to ensure that each day has purpose and structure. Students classed as vulnerable and/or who are from families of critical worker employees, would be permitted to continue attending school as part of our 'pop-up' provision.*

Tiered intervention 2: a two-week rota-based closure:

This will trigger an immediate transition to a two-week, rota-based provision with particular year groups continuing to attend school while others learn remotely. Our aim would be for a rotation period to follow a straight Monday-Friday format. Should we therefore be directed to implement a tier 2 intervention mid-week during the first rotation, we would count the beginning of the rotation period from the first Monday thereafter. Year groups have been organised in the following way:

Group A (who will begin remote learning in the first instance): Years 9, 10 & 12.

Group B (who will continue to learn in school in the first instance): Years 7, 8, 11 & 13.

The above groupings reflect our determination to ensure that we can space year groups out across the site, as well as allowing us to meet the needs of year groups preparing for examinations.

For year groups learning remotely, teachers will hold live lessons, as per the school timetable. This will typically comprise of 40 minutes of live teaching followed by 20 minutes of independent work. As per the above, where a live lesson is not possible, a voice-over PowerPoint (or similar) will be used. Please note that students will be expected to register live with their tutor each morning at 8.40am, helping to ensure that each day has purpose and structure. Students classed as vulnerable and/or who are from families of critical worker employees would be permitted to continue attending school as part of our 'pop-up' provision. We would ensure that appropriate social distancing is planned for by maintaining year group 'bubbles' where possible.

Individual learners who are unable to attend school following confirmation that they have contracted Covid-19 or who have been requested to self-isolate as a precautionary measure.

Teaching staff will ensure that a copy of any materials used during a lesson that they have delivered in school are uploaded on to the class Google Classroom page by 5pm on the day that the lesson took place. Please note – work will not be set for those students whose parents have made the decision to not send their child to school, since this contravenes Department for Education guidelines.

We continue to review and refine our plans regarding the above and I will of course keep you updated on any changes to the guidance that we receive from the Department for Education. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Garner
Assistant Headteacher

Appendix (produced by the Department for Education)

Tier 1

The default position for areas in national government intervention is that education and childcare settings will remain open. An area moving into national intervention with restrictions short of education and childcare closure is described as 'tier 1'. There are no changes to childcare, and the only difference in education settings is that where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

All nurseries, childminders, schools, colleges and other educational establishments should remain open and continue to allow all their children and young people to attend, on site, with no other restrictions in place.

Tier 2

Early years settings, primary schools and alternative provision (AP) providers, special schools and other specialist settings will continue to allow all children/pupils to attend on site. Secondary schools move to a rota model, combining on-site provision with remote education. They continue to allow full-time attendance on site to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers. All other pupils should not attend on site except for their rota time. Further education (FE) providers should adopt similar principles with discretion to decide on a model that limits numbers on site but works for each individual setting.

In all areas of national government intervention, education settings where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Tier 3

Childcare, nurseries, primary schools, AP, special schools and other specialist settings will continue to allow all children/pupils to attend on site. Secondary schools, FE colleges and other educational establishments would allow full-time on-site provision only to vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and selected year groups (to be identified by Department for Education). Other pupils should not attend on site. Remote education to be provided for all other pupils.

In all areas of national government intervention, education settings where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Tier 4

All nurseries, childminders, mainstream schools, colleges and other educational establishments allow full-time attendance on site only to our priority groups: vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other pupils should not attend on site. AP, special schools and other specialist settings will allow for full-time on-site attendance of all pupils. Remote education to be provided for all other pupils.

In all areas of national government intervention, education settings where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.