



9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the processes we have in place to ensure we are Covid secure and our school community is as safe as can be.

Our plans for managing any positive cases are very detailed and are discussed with Public Health on an individual basis. Any student or staff member identified as having been in proximity or close contact with someone who has later tested positive will be asked to self-isolate as a precaution, and parents will be contacted to talk it through before they leave the school site. They will then be expected to work at home until their return date. The return date will be clear on the letter they bring home with them.

The key criteria for self-isolation is spending time within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes with a confirmed case. Our seating plans allow us to be precise about who is affected. We have a common sense approach to this and always err on the side of caution.

It is essential that we have up to date contact details for you in case we need to contact you. If you have a new phone number or email address please pass this on to us as soon as possible.

We recognise the anxieties that the current situation creates for parents. However, we ask that you do not listen to rumours on social media and do not try calling the school to ask if your child has been affected. We have many phone calls to make when this happens, which means our staff may well be unable to respond to incoming calls. If your child has had a level of contact that requires them to self-isolate we will definitely be in touch. If we do not call, then your child can continue to attend school.

We also continue to work extremely closely with the Tameside Health & Safety and Public Health teams. They advise us and ensure that both our safety controls and our response systems are of the highest standard. The feedback we are getting is very positive about our tight control measures and that transmission of the virus is happening out in the community not within schools. We are certainly not complacent though, and I thought it might be useful to remind you of just some of the measures that are in place:

- Students and staff wear masks at all times when moving through school or in communal areas; windows and doors open at all times during lessons
- 80 hand sanitiser stations are in place around school and are used as students enter classrooms
- The school is 'zoned' so that each area of school is only used by one year group each day
- New routes have been created so that year groups do not mix as they walk around the building
- Lunchtimes have been split to reduce mixing and year groups sit in different areas
- Enhanced cleaning across the school eg between lunch sittings
- Seating plans at all times – students must sit in their allocated seats

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr G Rule

The students have responded fantastically, but we are taking a very strict approach and anyone who breaks our Health and Safety rules will be sent home and receive a fixed term exclusion.

Finally, it is pleasing to see that the majority of the shops that are open on Crown Point before school are now reinforcing the message about face coverings. The Senior Leadership Team will continue to be out in the community at the start and end of the school day – do please come and talk to us.

Yours faithfully,

*D. Cumming*

Donald Cumming

Deputy Headteacher