



Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

9th November 2020

Newsletter

Monday 9th November

Welcome back to Autumn Term 2. We decided to send a newsletter at the start of this week, as already it feels so long ago since the end of last term! We do hope that most managed to get a break and this has proved to be especially important now we are in "Lockdown 2".

There appears to be a pattern again of a delay in getting information from the Government with media leaks heralding the news. Although we took the decision about wearing masks in corridors earlier last week, we received the news that face coverings would be mandatory for secondary students, only on Wednesday evening.

It is vital that all students (unless medically exempt) wear face masks in corridors and communal areas. We are only able to supply a face mask in an emergency. Students must bring their own.

We are reminding students that now they must wear masks when travelling to and from lessons, and in communal areas. By mid week we are expecting not to have to remind students. We shall be emailing parents if students choose to forget. Thank you to those parents who have emailed Heads of Year to inform them if their child is medically exempt from wearing a mask.

A reminder that students who have PE should come to school in their PE kit. As the weather is colder they should wear black tracksuit bottoms/ thick black tights and a black top in order to keep warm.

Similarly, in classrooms, students will be allowed to wear their coats/jackets in order to keep warm as we are keeping doors and windows open to aid ventilation.

Thank you again for your great support. These are difficult times and everyone must play their part, including abiding by the rules at home. We continue to insist on regular hand washing or sanitising, keeping distance from adults, and avoiding students from other bubbles.

Hopefully together we can ensure that in Hertfordshire the spread of the virus lessens.

Message from the Chair of Governors

Governors and staff have been holding almost weekly COVID mitigation review meetings and communicating daily. These are to ensure we are updating our internal risk assessments (RA) with new guidance from HCC, Public Health England and the Government as it changes. This includes checking we are doing what we said in the RA's and deciding what is allowed/ not allowed under the latest guidance. The committee has also been developing a set of criteria to aid decision making e.g. to work out which school activities can be reintroduced safely after lockdown and with changing Tier classifications.



Accessing work for isolating students

As we seek to ensure we provide high-quality teaching and learning for all of our students in the current climate, please see the details of remote provision in the event of a student having to isolate:

- As a matter of course, and as long as the content and nature of the lesson permits, subject teachers will upload their lessons daily to the relevant Google Classroom so students should follow their timetable to complete this work
- In order to combat cases where this is not possible, each Year group has a whole of cohort Google Classroom where each department has provided around two week's worth of age-appropriate enrichment resource/project/workbook that complements the annual curriculum content covered for that year group. Please note:
 - It is not compulsory for students to complete this enrichment work
 - If submitted to the subject teacher, students will be rewarded with house points
 - At KS4 we have the Supporting Attainment Google Classroom which has material that includes revision activities linked to their exams
 - Although most students have signed up, here are the codes so you can support your child signing up at home if necessary:
 - Year 7 Google Classroom code: nqseq5k
 - Year 8 Google Classroom code: ke7ynum
 - Year 9 Google Classroom code: gxs7rtt
 - KS4 Google Classroom code: ncltrds

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 10th November	Virtual Y11 parents evening
16th - 20th November	Book week
19th November	School photos for Y7, Y11, new Y12s and footballers
Friday 27th November	Occasional day 1
Monday 30th November	Occasional day 2
Friday 18th December	Last day of term (early finish)

Remembrance service

We are trying to keep the school running as normally as possible but obviously have had to change we do certain things. We will therefore be holding a virtual Remembrance service on the 11th November. All our students will watch the virtual service during lesson 5. In previous years the service has been held outside with the whole of the school taking part. It is always a solemn and moving experience which we hope to replicate virtually.

Christmas lunch

Similarly, we plan to hold our traditional Christmas lunch for all year groups. Last year we served over 800 lunches and hope a similar number of students will join us this year. Obviously, we will have to adapt to Covid guidelines but lunches will take place during the week of 14th December. The lunch will cost £3.75 and must be pre-paid. We will send more information nearer the time.



Parking

Can we please remind parents not to come on the site to drop off or pick up. If you need a permit for the park and stride in the Old London Road please ask at either school reception. It is especially important that you do not park in the visitor's bays or behind the dining room. We have many students walking past while parents are reversing which is dangerous. Also please do not wait on the pedestrian crossing at the front of the school. This is also very dangerous.

General health and safety

Students who feel unwell should come to the **main reception** to be seen by the First Aiders to be accessed and or treated.

Under no circumstance should parents or carers be contacted by a student directly whilst on school premises.