

Dear parent/carer,

18 September 2020

We are extremely happy with the way students have responded to the new measures in school this week, it has been an excellent start to the year. We are very proud of all our students and staff.

Next week, we will return to our five lessons a day with all of our safety measures still in place including: separate entrance and exit gates per year group; staggered end of lessons; staggered lunches and breaks; separate year group canteens and outside areas; a one way system around school; regular cleaning of desks and classrooms; deep cleaning every day; the flexibility of being able to wear a face mask in communal areas; and most importantly, promoting good hygiene and regular hand cleaning.

In light of the recent sharp increase of Covid-19 cases in Warrington, we are also strongly encouraging you to send your child to school with a face covering to wear on corridors between lessons and in queues at break time and lunchtime. Lots of students and staff are wearing them already as it mitigates an extra layer of risk for themselves, and for others around them. There will be some students who cannot wear a face covering for lots of different reasons. It isn't a mandatory requirement at the moment, but it may become so if Warrington faces any local restrictions (apart from those who are exempt). Staff will also be encouraged to wear face coverings in the same enclosed, communal spaces.

If students do wear a face covering, then they must follow these rules:

- Face covering must be plain and dark coloured – no patterns, designs or logos.
- When worn, they must cover the mouth and nose fully.
- Hands must be cleaned before the face covering is put in place.
- Students must not touch the face covering or their face whilst it is on.
- Hands must be cleaned before the face covering is removed.
- The face covering must be stored in a dry sealable plastic bag immediately after removal.
- Hands must be cleaned once the face covering is safely stored.
- If a face covering becomes wet or damp, it must be disposed of immediately and not worn.
- Face covering cannot be thrown into a normal bin or put in a recycling bin.
- They must be put into a sealed plastic bag and disposed of in a normal bin.
- It is really important that face coverings are not discarded on the floor around school.

I would also ask you to be mindful of a couple of things that have come up this week:

- We cannot have water fountains in school at the moment as we cannot keep them Covid-19 secure. For this reason, students are unable to fill their water bottles up in the same way as usual. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will turn the water fountains back on.
- Please remind your child to have their equipment with them (pen, books etc).
- We would encourage students as much as possible to have their own hand sanitiser with them.
- We have had complaints from Birchwood Centre that young people in our uniform are not wearing their face masks when going into shops. We are reminding all students of the importance of this in assemblies next week, but if you could support that message too at home, that would be great.

We would like to streamline or **entrances and exits** to school a little bit more so we are adding two extra gates that can be used from next week. It will mean that year groups will not have to arrive at staggered start times as they will be able to stay within their year group bubble. Each year group will use the following:

- Year 7 – main entrance (same as this week)
- Year 8 – side gate (same as this week)
- Year 9 – gate by the college (same as this week)
- Year 10 – gate by the astro (new entrance for Monday)
- Year 11 – gate at the back steps of school (new entrance for Monday)

Any student who arrives before 08.30 will go straight to breakfast club. From 08.30 onwards, students can start to arrive using their own gate and going straight to their form room where their form tutor will supervise them until the start of the day at 08.50. Any students arriving after 08.50 from next week, will be classed as arriving late (unless for specified reasons).

At the end of each day, years 7/8/9 will exit school at 14.55 and years 10/11 will exit at 15.00 - all using their separate year group gates.

I know this is a lot of information for next week, but we are having to be flexible and adapt as our local context changes and as we continue to review how the measures work in practice at school.

I would like to emphasise again how fantastic students have been this week – it has been a pleasure to have them all back. We hope these little tweaks will help to further improve things again for next week. I would like to thank you all in advance for your support in these changes.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Take care,

Emma Mills