



31st October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable half term break. You are probably aware by now, that when I write to you on a Sunday, it is with a COVID update that is necessary to help protect our school family from this horrendous virus.

Due to the steeply rising trajectory of positive cases in young people across the borough, over the course of the holiday, we have received updated guidance from Doncaster Council. We will be implementing the recommendations below with immediate effect from tomorrow morning (Monday 1st November). I will record a video for our students to watch in their first lesson of the day, but I would be grateful if you could share the following information and make sure your child understands these steps are necessary to safeguard one another. No-one wants a return to home schooling.

- **Use of face coverings**

Students, staff and visitors need to **wear a face covering when moving around the school site (both outside and in corridors) and when not eating in the dining hall**. It is at the discretion of individuals, as to whether face coverings are worn once seated in the classroom. By the end of Monday, all desks will be facing forwards once again to try to minimise direct transmission.

- **Reducing mixing between year groups at break, lunch and before school**

We do not want to move to a situation again where all our students cannot purchase hot food from the school canteen, or indeed where some year groups spend all lunch queuing. We will therefore still be using the dining hall for all year groups, but to reduce mixing there will be designated indoor seating areas and separate outdoor allocated areas to ensure students remain with peers from their year group. This is far from perfect, but given the circumstances, it is the best arrangement possible to ensure all students have parity and equal opportunity. It will also still allow all students to play and release energy at social times should they wish, in our opinion, a crucial facet of the school day. We hope you understand and appreciate we have tried to reach a sensible halfway house. Please see the table below for further details.

To increase security a new inner fence has been erected over half term. **All students will still enter through the student entrance on Mere Lane** before moving to separate year group areas.

Year group	Allocated area before school (8:00-8:25)	Break and Lunch Sitting and Entry
7	Main Canteen	Sitting 2: Entry 1 (Canteen Left/Astro Left)
8	South Hall	Sitting 1: Entry 3 (Sports Hall and Tennis Courts)
9	Main Yard*	Sitting 2: Entry 2 (Canteen Right/Astro Right)
10	Tennis Courts*	Sitting 1: Entry 2 (Canteen Left/Astro Left)
11	Performing Arts Hall	Sitting 1: Entry 1 (Canteen Right/Astro Right)

*In the event of rain, we will separate the Sports Hall in half.

- **Limiting visitors to the school**

We have successfully run a couple of parent information evenings last half term, but considering updated recommendations, we will be either postponing or virtually presenting planned events throughout November to reduce the number of people inside the school building. **The Year 10 information evening will not take place this Thursday.** I will update you with proposed plans once the leadership team have discussed sensible alternatives this week.

We will also be temporarily cancelling indoor lettings in the Sports Hall and Activity Studio to minimise visitors on site after school. Outdoor lettings will continue.

All assemblies will be remote in the interim to reduce unnecessary full year group gatherings.

Please discuss with your child the importance of minimising touch with peers. We know the COVID virus transmits rapidly, therefore although we will not be enforcing social distancing measures, we will be encouraging students to think about maintaining personal space.

I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the letter sent from Doncaster Council for parents/carers. Please take note of the guidance linked to PCR and Lateral Flow Testing. Lateral Flow Test kits will be available in school as usual each lunch time for students to collect when necessary.

Year 11 exams

Year 11 mock examinations will continue as planned. Hopefully not, but should we find ourselves in a position where Teacher Assessed Grades are once again required, then these mocks will provide excellent evidence for us to use as part of the process. In addition, we are very conscious that many of our Year 11 students have been diligently revising at home; we do not want to deny them the opportunity to show exactly what they know and remember, as well as provide invaluable examination experience.

Class Charts

Finally, we are extremely pleased many of you have downloaded Class Charts to allow you to monitor your child's behaviour for learning each day. This collaboration together is improving attitudes to learning and conduct. Over half term, all points have been reset to zero. This is because every child is given a fresh start each half term. COVID restrictions permitting, this half term's reward for the top 50% of students (net points) and students with no negative behaviour points will be a staff pantomime. I'm sure the students will be queuing up with the custard pies!

As always, thank you in anticipation for your support. Should you have any questions/queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins
Headteacher