

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Newsletter – Week 2



Dear Parent/Carer,

At the end of week 2 of the Autumn Term, we certainly are moving into challenging times. As you know, our Year 11 are now self-isolating until their return on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. It is important that they do self-isolate for this period and we ask for parental support in ensuring this does happen. We have worked incredibly hard in making the school a safe place, and adhering to all latest guidance is essential. I would also like to make a special plea following the Government's announcement yesterday that social gatherings, indoors and outdoors, are limited to 6 from any household.

I want to add some clarity in how we are approaching the rules about face coverings in school. When inside school, we expect all students to wear face coverings walking to and from lessons, these can be removed when entering the classroom. As per my message to parents earlier in the week, we are also asking that as well as on public transport (which is the law), all students wear face coverings on the designated school transport service. It is important that we continue to do all we can to stop the spread of the disease and keep our school community as safe as possible. We have worked directly with Imperial Coaches and have implemented this policy from this week.

A really positive sight has been how well all of our students have worked in their new routines. We have a new school day, a new timetable and students are keeping to their designated areas. We have been incredibly lucky so far since our return with the weather, but please ensure that your child is ready for when the weather turns against us with appropriate outdoor coat and umbrella if needed.

As a reminder for personal organisation and equipment, can you please ensure that your child has the following items:

- A full pencil case which includes 4 pens, 2 pencils, 1 green pen, an eraser, a sharpener, highlighters (especially a green one), a glue stick, a ruler, a calculator, some scissors. Equipment must not be shared between peers and staff are not permitted to loan any equipment to the students
- A set of earphones compatible with the school's IT and Music facilities are essential

- Exercise books required for the day
- Student Planner
- A personal reading book
- A note book
- Any additional equipment that may be specific to courses of study such as musical instruments
- A pack of tissues – to make sure we 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- A bottle of hand sanitiser to use during lessons (for personal use)
- Any refreshments as we are ensuring that each designated eating area is only open to a particular year group at any one time.

I would like to clarify the decisions made by the school on Monday as I am aware of comments made on social media which are factually erroneous. The initial advice, which we communicated to parents was that all students needed to go home and be tested before they returned to school. Later that day, I receive two further calls from the Thames Valley Health Protection Team to say that the students needed to self-isolate for 14 days and that a test was not needed. I wrote to Year 11 parents early evening to explain this with an accompanying letter explaining this. It is clear that day by day new measures, new guidance and new restrictions are put in place which is why we called the relevant authority which, as a school, we must do. Like many parents, I was incredibly frustrated that initially the wrong course of action had been outlined.

I would like to finish this week's letter by saying thank you to the many parents that have emailed me to thank us for the work we are doing in keeping our school community as safe as possible. Your kind words have been welcomed! We continue to be diligent and careful in all we do.

Stay safe everyone (and Year 11 – stay isolated!)

Yours faithfully,



**Mr R Denial**  
**Principal**

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