

Saturday, 7 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for your support and consideration over the past few weeks.

In line with guidance from Public Health England, if your child's doctor has confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable they are advised not to attend school until Wednesday 2nd December. We will be offering clinically extremely vulnerable children access to remote education on our Google Classroom platform, in line with current legislation.

Entering the winter months will be challenging for the school's pandemic operations. In order to improve ventilation, we will be teaching lessons with the windows open.

I am writing to ask that you encourage your child to wear layers (a vest or t shirt) under their school uniform, especially if they are in Year 10 and Year 11 and have their lessons in the school's practical block. Pupils are not permitted to wear outdoor coats and hats in the classroom so they must make sure they wear their school jumper and blazer if they are concerned about feeling cold.

Pupils at the school will continue to wear face coverings in all communal areas where they cannot safely socially distance, including classrooms. For clarity, the school's interpretation of what constitutes a 'communal' area is based on the size of a space and the number of people occupying it. Our main school building was built over one hundred years ago and the classrooms within it were originally occupied by 10-12 pupils. They are currently occupied by 30 pupils, plus the class teacher. Pupils are unable to safely socially distance in classrooms and this is why, during the national lockdown, they will wear face coverings during lessons.

We are committed to doing all we can to keep our pupils, staff and their wider families safe. I am pleased to announce that we will be reopening the school's food bank, effective immediately. From Monday 16th November, if you are in need of food supplies, please call or email into the school office. You will be assigned an appointment where you will be able to collect a food parcel from outside the school's reception area.

If you are able to donate items to the school's food bank, please send your child into school with any of the following items: **cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, lentils, beans, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk and fruit juice.**

Wishing you all a restful weekend

Jessica McQuaid
Head teacher