

July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are well. As another, most unusual, academic year draws to a close, we would like to start by saying an enormous thank you for your on-going support and how proud we all are of all that has been achieved this year. It is a great credit to the motivation and commitment of staff and students alike that high-quality learning has been taking place throughout our time working at home.

Despite the challenges of this year, it has been another very successful one for our school community. Many students have entered all sorts of competitions beyond school – whether that is in sport, writing, business & enterprise or other activities. For example, some of our students have had poems published as part of the University of Manchester's school poetry competition. Also, our sports teams have enjoyed success coming second in their football league.

Our broad and balanced curriculum continues to inspire and challenge students to think creatively and develop key knowledge, skills and understanding. Our rich careers programme is a vital part of that, and we are indebted to colleagues at the universities and a wide range of businesses for their support in providing work experience and continued to provide empowering talks through online technology. Further details of our rich and rigorous curriculum can be found on our website.

Student leadership continues to be a hugely important part of our school and our students' preparation for the next stage of their lives. As part of this, our young people support the work of GM Citizens, feeding community views into the building of priorities for the office of the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Before lockdown began, we were delighted to be accredited with the Eco Schools Bronze Award. This award recognised what we do as a school community to help to reduce our negative impact on the environment. As part of this, we want to encourage you to enable your children to walk or cycle more to school, using the car less. Use of public transport should be kept to a minimum. This is of particular importance given the current advice given by the government on using public transport. (Please see more information in this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers> If you are dropping off or picking up your child(ren), please also try to do this at a safe distance from school and be mindful of both student and traffic safety when doing so.

At this point, it is timely to give some other practical information and reminders. The vast majority of our students look very smart every day –but there still seems to be some confusion about what is acceptable as trousers. Students should not be wearing leggings/jeggings or denim trousers (ie jeans) to school – regardless of what shops may label them as or how they may display them in a school uniform section. Trousers should also be full length, not skimming the ankles. Footwear should be plain black shoes or trainers – if boots are worn they must be tucked underneath trouser legs so as to look like shoes. Students should also not be wearing earrings or facial piercings and make-up is not allowed. Whilst we are all making efforts to stop the spread of the virus, the changing rooms will be out of use so, on the days when your child(ren) has PE, they should wear their PE kit to school. We hope that students wear their uniform with pride, as part of belonging to school but also because taking pride in your appearance is an important part of preparing for a career.

This next part of the letter is focused on the ways we have organised our school to comply with government guidance and adhere to public health requirements.

School starts for Year 8 students at 8.35am on Friday 11th September – we have staggered the start of the new academic year to allow students time to get used to the new organisation of the school. Students should enter through the Errwood Gate and staff will guide them to our hall where there will be an assembly. Lesson 1 of this day will be spent in their Year 8 tutor groups. Year 8 students will finish at 14.50pm. For the time being, we will not be offering any before school or after school clubs. All students must leave the site at their designated time.

In line with government guidance, we have organised the school into year group bubbles. Each year group bubble will have its own set of classrooms, its designated social spaces and its own set of toilets. The Head of Progress, Mrs Ejaz and the Pastoral Manager, Ms Mirzadad are also based in this part of the school.

Classrooms are organised in rows and equipment will not be shared outside of the year group bubble. Each classroom will be well ventilated and contain the following items to keep the environment clean: sanitizing wipes, hand gel, tissues and lidded bins. We have increased the frequency of the cleaning rota, paying particular attention to frequent points of surface contact such as banisters and door handles. At the beginning and end of each lesson and before and after social times, there will be clear routines to sanitize workspace and sanitize hands thoroughly. All members of our school community must follow these procedures.

Students must bring their own equipment each day. Students can bring a packed lunch if they wish.

To keep us all safe, wherever possible, students must maintain a distance of 2 metres from adults in the school – markers and posters will support our regular reminders of this important part of keeping us all safe.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If you or any member of your household as any of the symptoms, the following actions must be taken:

1. minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
2. cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
3. ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach



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4. introduce enhanced cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
5. minimising contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
6. where necessary wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
7. Get a test – get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, should also get a test if they have symptoms

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

If a young person demonstrates any of the symptoms during the school day, they will be sent immediately to the meeting room in reception. First Aid will be notified. The student will be isolated in this room, parents/carers will be contacted to collect them straightaway. The supervising first aider will remain outside of the room but make sure they can see the student.

Test and Trace

All members of the school community (staff/students/parents/carers) must be ready to and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We will be communicating this information with your children too to help make the start of the new academic year as safe and as happy as possible. Please be assured that our plan and risk assessments meet public health guidelines.

Remember to make sure that your ParentPay accounts have money in them for the start of term ready to buy school lunches without any problems on the first day.

This has been another fantastic year for the school and our students, we are very proud of all of the students' achievements and development, and we wish you and your family a relaxing, safe and happy summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to our school community in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



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Miss D Johnson
Academy Co-Headteacher

Mr N A Johnson
Academy Co-Headteacher



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