

23 September '20

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

COVID-19

Thank you for the excellent support that you have provided in helping us to implement the new arrangements that we have needed to put in place during this challenging **COVID-19** pandemic. Clearly, the national and local circumstances are changing all the time and so we are having to respond frequently to new information.

Given the rate of increase in the incidence of COVID-19, both nationally and locally, and the new restrictions announced by the Prime Minister on Tuesday, we have decided to make the wearing of **face masks** around the site compulsory (other than where students have specific agreed exemptions, on medical grounds). The current guidance states that '... if the rate of transmission increases across the whole country, it may be necessary to apply stricter guidance on face coverings nationally.' Nevertheless, we have decided, in our context, to act proactively and introduce this requirement from **Monday 28 September**. For lessons, it remains the case that students must take their face masks off, keeping them safely and securely on their person. It is also important that students continue to use the hand sanitiser provided around the site, including on their entry to, and exit from, the school and at the start of every lesson.

We would also like to reiterate the importance of keeping your son/daughter at home, if they have any of the **COVID-19 symptoms**, i.e. a new and persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started and try and stay as far away as possible from other members of their household, particularly where they live with someone who is clinically vulnerable. A test should be booked as soon as possible to see if they have COVID-19.

Anyone who is not experiencing symptoms, but has tested positive for COVID-19, must self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the day the test was taken. If symptoms are developed during this isolation period, the 10-day isolation period should be restarted from the day the symptoms were developed. From Monday 28 September, people could be fined if they do not stay at home and self-isolate following a positive test result for COVID-19, or if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and instructed to self-isolate. After 10 days, anyone who still has a temperature should continue to self-isolate and seek medical advice. They do not need to self-isolate after 10 days if they only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. Where someone has tested positive, all other household members need also to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or, if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken.

If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.

Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms again, at any point after ending their first period of isolation (self or household), should (once again) follow the guidance on self-isolation.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported us with our uniform changes and ensuring that students are in school with the correct items. Where there have been delays to orders and difficulties in sourcing items, we have tried to be as understanding and accommodating as possible. If you are still experiencing problems, or need support to purchase items, please do contact us.

Due to the need to be flexible, with colder weather and some items not being available for students to wear, we have, this month, accepted jumpers and hoodies that are plain or have small logos. However, from Monday 5th October, non-uniform jumpers or hoodies will not be permitted to be worn at any time within the school building. Please ensure, when your son/daughter is otherwise likely to be cold, that he/she wears a plain 'V-neck' knitted school jumper under their blazer. If students have PE, on that day they should either wear their school PE hoodie or their school blazer. Coats will need to be removed in the school building. If the weather turns very cold and windows and doors have to remain open, we will reassess our position, so that children do not get too cold in classrooms.

CCTV

In the 'welcome back' video, we informed students and parents/carers, that we had installed further, updated, CCTV cameras around the site. In order to support the COVID-19 hygiene measures that have been implemented and to support more generally the maintenance of high standards of cleanliness, conduct and safety, this included installation in the wash-room areas. The 'dome-shaped' CCTV camera units are fixed to the ceiling near the sinks. They are both physically and electronically calibrated to a restricted view and there is obviously no line of sight, or recording, of the interior area of the toilet cubicles or the area around the boys' urinals, just as we would never use this equipment in changing room facilities. Increasingly, new schools have 'open plan' wash-room areas with an open view to the sinks from the corridors and this, in a sense, is a similar arrangement. The CCTV Policy, which has been approved by the Trust Board, can be accessed from the school website.

OPEN EVENING

As with so many other activities and events on the school calendar, we are needing to make some changes this year, due to the COVID-19 situation. Our annual Open Evening is scheduled for Wednesday 30th September this year. Whilst we are not able to invite parent(s)/carer(s) into the school physically – for talks and activities – we have planned a virtual event in its place. We're really pleased with so many developments in the school over the past year and we are seeing clear, positive evidence of this in lessons and exam outcomes. If you have friends and neighbours with children who are in years 5 or 6, please encourage them to take a look and get involved in the activities. We're also planning virtual tours of the school and Q&A sessions, which parents/carers can book.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please note that other scheduled events feature on the school calendar, which can be found in the 'About Us' section of the school website.

MyEd APP

Thank you to all of the parent(s)/carer(s) who have so far signed up for the new communication app, MyEd. We now have around two thirds of our families signed up to the app. All important information and urgent messages are now being sent via the app, so it really is important that all parent(s)/carer(s) download this as soon as possible. Please note, text messages will no longer be sent and all communication will be within the app. We therefore recommend you switch on your notifications so you are alerted immediately of any urgent messages. If you have any difficulties, please get in touch with your year office.

The MyEd app is available for both Apple iOS and Android devices and can be found on either Apple's App Store or on Google Play by searching for MyEd. Once you have installed and opened MyEd, search for 'Chase Terrace Academy' and follow the simple instructions to identify yourself.

NEW WEBSITE

Many of you will have visited our new website and hopefully found it easier to navigate around. There are very important documents related to what the students are studying on the website in the curriculum area. You will find a lot of information here with a curriculum plan for each subject and 'knowledge organisers' for each area taught. Mrs Baird (Assistant Head – Teaching and Learning) is currently producing videos to support parents/carers in the use of these resources at home to support their son's/daughter's learning. We will send a message via the App once these are live. In the meantime, please do go onto the website and have a look.

Stay safe.

Best wishes:



Stuart Jones
Executive Headteacher



Nicola Mason
Head of School