

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/November 2020 Update

17 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we have concluded the first week of lockdown, I am writing to remind you of the COVID-19 Measures students should follow in the Academy. Please take time to talk through this letter with your child.

Lockdown

Although schools remain open, it is important that students adhere to national lockdown outside of school hours by going straight home from school and following government guidance. Please remind your child that they should not congregate in groups before or after school due to the lockdown measures in place.

Face Coverings

Students must wear face coverings in school except for when they are sitting in their seats in the classroom and when they are outside. Please ensure your child comes to school each day with a clean face covering and if using the surgical masks, please send a spare as these tend to break.

Ventilation

As we enter the colder months, we will need to keep classrooms ventilated to minimize the risk of the virus. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate plain under layers and a plain V-neck jumper. Slogan jumpers and hoodies remain prohibited and will be confiscated.

Social Time

Students' social time will remain outside to enable them to get some fresh air and socialise with their peers; please send them equipped with a coat and umbrella.

School Timings

The staggered timings to reduce congregation will remain the same for the foreseeable future. Please try to plan your child's journey to arrive just before their school start time so that they can head straight into their first lesson. Sixth form students should continue to arrive in school for their first lesson and leave school following their last lesson of the day.

Hand Hygiene

Students are asked to sanitize their hands on entry and exit to classrooms and on entry to the refectory. Please remind your child to wash their hands when they arrive home and please wash their uniform regularly. If your child prefers to bring their own sanitiser, they can do so provided it fits into their blazer pocket.

Attendance

Staff at Fairfax are keen to support students to catch up from lock down. As there will no doubt be periods of isolation due to Covid, we would ask that you ensure your child's attendance is as close to 100% as possible.

COVID-19 Guidance – if a member of your household has symptoms and is awaiting a test result

Do not send your child to school – please be reminded that if a member of your household is awaiting a COVID-19 test due to having symptoms, the whole household should isolate until the test result is received, and students must not return to school until a negative test result is received. Please advise school of the reason for the absence as COVID-19 absences are exempt from usual attendance processes.

COVID-19 Guidance – if your child has symptoms and is awaiting a test result

Do not send your child to school – please be reminded that if your child has a COVID-19 test due to having symptoms, they must not return to school until the test result is received. We do not require evidence of a negative test, but do require evidence of a positive result. Please advise school of the reason for the absence as COVID-19 absences are exempt from usual attendance processes.

Participation

We are very disappointed to not be able to run Eisteddfod as usual this year, but hope that students will get involved in our virtual event. There are lots of activities for students to take part in, from performing arts to individual written, arts and photography entries. Please encourage your child to 'have a go'.

Remote Learning

As you are aware from previous communications, following significant investment over the summer, we have experienced considerable teething problems with wi-fi connectivity in school. Since a further upgrade over the summer, we have had issues with Show My Homework. The Show My Homework issues are now resolved, and we are moving towards a position where all teachers will be able to deliver lessons on Teams and some are already doing so. All students have logged on in school and should be able to access Teams using the help sheets sent prior to half-term. These are re-attached for your reference. If your child is working from home due to isolation, please be reminded to access the e-Safety resources on our website. Students being taught remotely via teams should access the lesson without their webcam on.

Swimming Pool

It is nearly 5 years since we had to take the sad decision to permanently close the swimming pool due to significant faults. We are delighted to have begun work on repurposing the building into a large multifunctional space that will be used for dance, drama, PE, performing arts and examinations. The works have been running to schedule and we hope to have the space available by Christmas.

Well-being

We understand that these are trying times and that our young people are affected by the ongoing presence of COVID-19. Some links/organisations that may be of benefit are:

www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond

kooth.com

youngminds.org.uk

You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year if you have concerns about their well-being, or need any support for your child during this difficult period.

ARKS

This term we have been proud to see so many of our students get on to the Milestone Ladder and so many students receive merits for being ambitious, respectful, kind and safe. A reminder that to get 'onto' the ladder students need to log their merits. A slide on how they can do this is attached.

As always it is a privilege to be Headteacher to such a dedicated student body and it has been a pleasure seeing them return to their learning during this period of lockdown.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Academy staff during these unusual times.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy