

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As the first couple of days draw to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to say how great it has been to see college, once again, full with students and staff. Our data indicates that student attendance today was in excess of 98% which is a fantastic figure to realise on the first full day of term. Thank you for your support and patience with our plans.

After many months of absence seeing children back in classrooms and engaging with teachers and their friends is heart-warming! I delivered my 'welcome' assembly to students this week via a video link, start/end times differ, breaks are split, there are no session bells, PE is delivered outdoors, the site is zoned - many aspects to college are slightly different but students have been so resilient and adapted well to our new safety procedures.



The site team, cleaning teams and staff have worked so hard to ensure we were ready to return on Thursday – I'm very grateful for their efforts. There is still more to do and from time to time we may need to evolve/adapt as events or guidelines change. We will need to reply upon your patience and support.

**Having had the opportunity to see our plans in action yesterday with the return of Year 7 and 9 we have decided to alter our plans with regard to face coverings with effect from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September and I want to set out my reasons clearly here.**

There is some misunderstanding about the role of social distancing and zones within the college. Each year group is zoned within one main specific building – there will be lessons outside of the main zone, for example, Computing will be taught in a computer room instead of the Bedford Block for Year 7 or 8, but this movement is staggered and controlled with careful routes to those rooms. When students are in their year group bubble there is no need for students to maintain social distancing. Indeed, the very term 'bubble' means that there is no social distancing in effect for that group.

The bubbles during the college day have worked well so far and we will continue to pay close attention to the effectiveness of them over the next few weeks as habits are formed. However, it was clear as Year 7 and 9 left the college site last night that our existing plans cannot maintain the same degree of zoning as we have inside the buildings. For this afternoon only we will stagger the release of students so that no two year groups leave by the same exit at the same time so that we

can effectively move students through the two main pinch points. From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September we will insist that all students from Year 7 to 11 wear a face covering as they approach the college site and as student numbers build up and keep them on until they reach their year group zone. On departure at the end of the day, staff will require students to put on their face coverings and this must be kept on until students are clear of the college site and able to disperse more effectively.

Can you please ensure your child has two fabric face coverings with them as well as a sealable plastic bag in which they can be stored when they are not being used.

To clarify, the entrance and exit gates are as follows:

- Year 7 and 8 – main gate by Reception
- Year 9 - Franklin Quad gate near Bishop Laney 6<sup>th</sup> Form
- Year 10 and 11 – Pedestrian gate by the lay-by on Downham Road
- Year 7, 8 and 9 students can also leave the college site via the rear gate by Lantern Primary School.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns then I would urge you to make direct contact via email with your child's Senior Tutor. They will be able to make contact to offer help and support.

Enjoy the weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back in college on Monday morning.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton  
Principal