



5th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

“Remember, remember the fifth of November” - as the first line of the famous rhyme goes.

I suspect we will all remember *this* 5 November 2020, or Bonfire Night, for a while; controversy over who will be the next President of the United States or the first day of our second national lockdown – take your pick!

Of course, this time around schools will remain fully open and thank goodness. They not only provide young people with a vital education, they develop routine and structure alongside knowing there will always be someone to look out for them. National figures released last week show that national secondary attendance for last half term varied enormously up and down the country between 61% and 94%. I'm extremely pleased to say our attendance, despite not insignificant numbers of students having to self-isolate, during September and October averaged 92%.

Over half term we carried out a thorough cleaning process throughout the building, we have installed hand sanitisers on every entrance – the students have got into the routine of using these very quickly – and increased our signage to remind everyone of the basics of keeping safe.

Yesterday the government made further announcements around safety in schools. The key piece of information is around face coverings, the guidance means it will now be **mandatory for face coverings to be worn in the communal areas of all secondary schools and colleges**. The Association of School and College Leaders said last night, *“This extension to the rule on face coverings is a sensible response to rising Covid levels, and will act as an extra level of protection on top of the other safety measures in schools. It is vital that this requirement is respected by all parents and pupils.”*

We recognise the difficulties students have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and have adapted our teaching to ensure key concepts are covered and any gaps in learning are quickly closed. We are in the process of sending out a report which will remind you of where your child was prior to the COVID-19 national lockdown and how they have responded to the challenges of returning to full-time, face to face education. You will either receive your child's report this week or early next week.

The most important thing we need to do, in addition to working closely together to support your child, is to identify potential sources of intervention or support that will help to address any gaps. If your child received a 3 or 4 for their engagement then an intervention has been identified.

Throughout this half-term, teachers will be continuing their focus on formative feedback and reviewing curriculum plans to address any gaps in learning and to ensure students are prepared for their next steps.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's report please get in touch with the relevant Achievement Leader or Year Manager.

Finally, as the mornings (despite the clocks going back) and evenings begin to get darker could you help us to reinforce the safety message around roads and traffic.

If you have any other questions or concerns please just get in touch with us.

Best wishes

Kevin Reynolds
Executive Principal