

5th February 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

I hope you are safe and well.

This letter is being sent to the parent/carer of any students who have previously registered with us to attend on one or more days of the week, for some in school supervision. I do hope that this offer of some school attendance has been helpful to you and your family during this latest lockdown, which has included an enforced national school closure.

Schools are under instruction from the Department for Education to limit the numbers of students attending school, as the government's strategy at this time is to limit the role that students might play in potentially being a transmitter of the virus. In some schools as many as 50% of students have been attending and this is not having the desired effect. It is for this reason that the government has said that attendance in school for those who are eligible should only be used where absolutely necessary and that **'parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'**. If you do find your circumstances change and that attendance is only needed on a more limited basis e.g. some set days or half days, then we can be flexible around your need and please let us know.

As our current numbers have reached closer to 100, we have had to increase the number of groups and spaces being used. As this means involving more staff, we need to add more structure to the day and ensure that spaces being shared are done so safely. We want to continue to offer some PE provision, as we are conscious that being in school means the students have less access to the daily exercise recommendations in daylight hours. Unfortunately, in many cases, the clothing being worn to school has not been safe or appropriate for physical activity e.g. ripped jeans, mini skirts, heeled shoes/boots. In addition to this, it is important that students still follow the school policy in relation to items of jewellery, piercings, make up and hair. Caps and hats are not to be worn indoors. Unlike some schools, we do not want to have to insist on full uniform at this time, but we would ask the students to support us with these reasonable requests.

In support of this and other issues, please note the following points for students attending school:

- **Budmouth PE kit** should now be brought in and students will be allowed time to change before and after PE sessions. As well as being safe, it is also good hygiene practice for the students to be changing after exercise.
- Students must remember to bring in their **face coverings** (unless they are exempt) and wear them in all indoor communal areas e.g. entering the building, walking along corridors and going to the toilet.
- Students **must arrive on time** for an 8.45am start. We have to submit a daily register of attendance to the Department for Education and if students do not arrive when they had been expected, we also have a duty of safeguarding care to inform parents.
- Please ensure you have **given consent for your child to undertake testing** for Covid-19. This is perhaps the most effective thing we can do to keep everyone (students and staff) in school feeling safe and secure. Here is a further link to the Consent Form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffU4MwwARpsqjJ9kpiIMCkxSN1YtWxqjzpuBr7xZsq2qhPuq/viewform>

Thank you for your support with these important points.

I would like to say that our staff have been extremely impressed with the overall conduct of the students and approach to their work. Just today, our canteen staff commented to me on how polite students are at lunchtimes with patient queuing and always saying 'please' and 'thank you'. The Support Staff conducting the tests have been equally impressed. These little things go a very long way indeed, especially when some of these staff may feel a little anxious about being at work in the current climate. They are doing an important job, and we thank them for it.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mike Hoffmann
Associate Principal