



Autumn Term (2)

18th September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

As promised in my letter last week, I write with a further update. With so much media coverage relating to schools, I believe it is important to keep you fully informed.

Students are now familiar with the changes we have put in place and the academy is orderly and focused. Daily step-counts have become a competitive sport amongst our staff as they move across the site to year group 'zones' many times throughout the day! As the national and local picture changes, we continue to adapt our procedures. It is a considerable undertaking to reorganise the entire school day. Whilst there are inevitable compromises, our arrangements are working well with excellent attendance across all year groups.

We appreciate it is difficult for you to envisage the changes we have made. We have therefore created a short narrated presentation so you can see and hear about our safety measures which can be viewed on the homepage of our website.

Important information for parents/carers

Masks in school

- **Students are now required to wear masks when moving between classrooms and on corridors within their bubble.** This applies to **all students** other than those with a valid medical exemption card. Students who fail to adhere to this rule will receive consequence points. Persistent refusal to follow this rule, designed to keep our entire community safe, will result in a fixed term exclusion in line with our Code of Conduct.

Transport

- All students travelling by bus, (other than those who are exempt) are required to wear a mask for the entire journey to and from school.

Costs

- Please support us by ensuring your child has a clean mask within a plastic bag inside their blazer pocket every day. We are unable to meet the ongoing cost of providing so many masks on a daily basis. Schools are not being reimbursed for additional cleaning/PPE/staffing costs during the Autumn term.

Water fountains

- In line with health and safety guidance, we are currently unable to provide access to our water fountains. Students should bring enough water from home for the school day.

We continue to monitor national and local Covid-19 updates as well as the information provided by parents. In the event that a member of staff or student tests positive for Covid-19, we will liaise with LCC Health Protection Team and determine which children need to be sent home. This will be determined by information held in school relating to 'bubbles', class lists, seating plans and information provided by the individual and their family.

If your child is required to remain at home, you will be notified individually. I will also, in the event of a confirmed case, write to all parents to inform you of the steps we have taken. For students remaining at home, their education will continue remotely.

I would like to thank you for once again sending messages of thanks and appreciation to our staff as we work in partnership to navigate this 'new normal.'

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Laming
Headteacher

Useful links:

- Government advice on Covid-19 symptoms, self-isolation and testing:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- The Department for Education helpline is available to answer questions about coronavirus and education. Parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: 0800 046 8687, Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm.
- Useful links that detail our Covid-19 procedures and policies can be found on the academy website: www.lincolncastleacademy.co.uk