

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I never cease to be impressed by our students, and indeed the way in which they embraced all the changes at the start of this year was just remarkable. From changes to the times of the day and lesson transitions to year group zones and virtual assemblies, they have taken everything in their stride, with positivity and good humour, making this week a very smooth first week of term. A huge well done and thank you to everyone!

### **Expectations**

With new routines under our belt, we will now be turning our attention next week to reminding students about expectations of both conduct and attire. Our current students will be familiar with these reminders at the start of each year and term. As always, the partnership with parents/carers is key and we appreciate your continued support in ensuring that your children have everything they need for their school day. With this in mind, I thought it might be helpful to draw out a few key reminders for your and your child's attention:

- All non-uniform items, eg. coats or hoodies, should be removed on entering the school building.
- Skirts should never be rolled up. Skirts can be adjusted at the waist if too loose and there should be no need, therefore, for skirts to be rolled up. The rolling up of skirts is a safeguarding matter and will be consistently addressed by staff.
- Skirts are to be worn with black opaque tights, or black or white plain socks.
- Shoes should be all black. No boots are permitted.
- Leggings are only acceptable if worn as part of the PE/Dance kit.
- Only small ear or nose studs are permitted. All other jewellery (bar watches) will need to be removed.
- Nails should be short. Nail extensions are not permitted.
- Make up, if worn, should be discrete and hair of a natural colour.
- Face coverings can be of any colour but they must be plain.
- The use of mobile telephones is not allowed on the school site and phones will be confiscated if seen.
- For the time being, students should continue to attend school in their PE kits on the days when they have PE lessons. We will let you know if government guidance changes on the matter.

If a student is missing an item of uniform for any reason on a particular day (eg. they left their tie at home), they should let our reception staff know on arrival so that they can be issued with a temporary replacement.

I am pleased to confirm that Year 10 jackets are now in stock. Information about measuring and ordering will be sent to Year 10 parents in the coming days.

### **Face coverings**

Can I please remind you that, from Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, students and staff will be required to wear face coverings when moving in the corridors. Some of you have been in touch to express concern about this, and to challenge the need for face coverings in an area of relatively low Covid-19 infection and transmission rate. I take all your valid points on board. However, our school community includes students and staff who are particularly vulnerable to the infection and we have a duty of care to them, and to everyone in our school, to ensure that necessary steps are taken to minimise risks on site. While in transit within the building, we are not in a position to put additional control measures in place in the way that we can within classrooms, hence our decision to

introduce face coverings at these times. It is worth clarifying that this will only represent a small proportion of the day and students will remain free from face coverings at all other times (unless they wish to wear one).

Students will also need to have with them a sealable bag or box to store their face covering/s when not in use. All classrooms have special bins to discard disposable masks.

We obviously accept that face coverings are not suitable for all students, particularly those with medical conditions which could be exacerbated by wearing a mask. Please email us at [adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk) to let us know if your child needs to be exempt from wearing a face covering in school. Students who are exempt will be issued with an exemption card on arrival into their zone.

### **Safety in the Carpark**

As you will have seen from my message earlier this week, the increased volume of car traffic in and out of the carpark at pick-up time is causing some issues with the safety of students walking/cycling out of school. Staff will now be at the site gate at the end of the day to help regulate the flow of users. This may slow cars' exit slightly. We hope that you will bear with us as we adjust to these new logistical challenges. If you must come into the carpark, please drive with particular care, especially at busy times.

With best wishes,

**Miss Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher**