

5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following on from the recent Government announcement, you will know that schools are to remain open during the national restrictions. We are aware that many families will be anxious about their children returning to school next week and wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our existing safety measures and update you with additional changes that we have put in place for when the children return next week.

As you know, our existing working practices, which have been implemented since September to keep our staff and students safe have proved to be successful and I would like to remind you of the practices below which were also shared in my previous letter:

- An adjustment to the sequence of lessons in the school day, with students going straight into period one rather than tutor time. This has worked well and students have said that they prefer to access their learning immediately and then catch up with their tutor later in the day.
- Students entering through their own entrance each morning. This has given us a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet students in a more personalised way and this will possibly be a change that we will maintain longer term.
- Year group zones during social times. This change has been really successful and has given students the opportunity to mix with and get to know better, members of their own year group which many have told us they really valued.
- A one way system with new floor markings to ensure all students move around the site facing in the same direction. This has been a real positive with lesson changeovers easier to facilitate as everyone is moving in the same direction. It has also meant that corridors are far less congested and students are not facing each other when moving in the corridors.
- A robust cleaning programme, alongside regular hand sanitisation and the requirement for all students to wear face coverings whilst moving about the site has meant that we have been able to keep the transmission of the virus to a minimum.

In addition to these measures we are also insisting that from Monday:

- Face coverings will be worn **at all times when moving** around, between and within classrooms and corridors – Our mantra will be - **'If you're moving, you're wearing it'**
- After social time, face coverings must be worn as soon as students enter the building if they have been outside.
- Classrooms and changing rooms will be sprayed with disinfectant cleaner at the end of every lesson (All tables and all touch surfaces including the backs of the chairs).
- All students will enter the building by the nearest entrance to their (zone) social space at the end of break and will follow the one way system to their next lesson.
- Students will be encouraged to socialise in consistent groups and not to go between groups. This may require some explaining for the students and this would be time well spent.

- Increasing Ventilation and Air Flow across the whole site:
 - a. Our atrium windows will be open throughout the school day to ensure there is adequate fresh air flow throughout the school building.
 - b. Windows will be opened before the class arrives in the morning each day and left open throughout the lesson unless it gets too cold.
 - c. Windows in every classroom will be opened every hour (between lessons) and at the start of each break time. They will remain open throughout break.
 - d. Doors will remain open at all times when students are in the classrooms to aid air flow around the classroom and to reduce the touch surfaces on entry and exit to the room.
 - e. **As the classrooms will need to be regularly flooded with outside air students should wear some warm layers under their school uniform during the winter months and the teacher also has the discretion to allow the wearing of coats in lessons should the temperature require this.**

PE Kit and Changing

I refer to this area specifically because we are aware that there is some anxiety around PE lessons and changing and I wanted to outline our plans and to reassure you that this is not us relaxing our expectations or safety measures. As you know, we have adapted our PE procedures to ensure our students can continue to take part in physical activity, largely outside (as advised by the Government), regardless of the weather conditions.

We will continue to ensure that the highest level of safety for our students continues through the following measures, which are in accordance with government guidelines for PE and with enhancements shown in bold since my last letter:

1. Students will be kept in consistent groups in their year group bubbles for PE lessons
2. All activities in Physical Education (PE) lessons will be non-contact and planned to ensure that distance is maximised between children
3. Scrupulous attention will be paid to cleaning and hygiene
4. Students will wash and/or sanitise their hands before and after their lesson
5. Movement around the PE areas will be considered so as to limit the risks of mixing. For example, entry and exit points
6. Lessons will be outside wherever possible and activities altered to ensure suitable social distancing
7. When changing areas are used, **social distancing will be maintained and students will have individual allocated places to change** and the areas will be cleaned after every lesson. Particular attention will be given to high touch areas and the changing space has more than doubled with each group
8. **Face coverings will be worn by students while they are changing.**
9. Clear signage reminding pupils about social distancing and washing their hands will be displayed in all teaching areas, including outdoor open spaces
10. The sharing of equipment during PE lessons will be limited and where equipment is shared, pupils will wash their hands thoroughly before and after use. Strict hand hygiene will take place before and after every PE lesson. Whistles, drink bottles, bibs and bands will not be shared.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)

We recognise that we will have some families with people who are in the updated CEV category and we would encourage you to follow the government guidance as follows:

- Children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised **not** to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Appropriate arrangements for remote education will need to be made

- Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

We have also been advised by the DfE that, “Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable are no longer identified as such”. We would therefore encourage parents to speak to their GP or specialist clinician, as soon as possible, if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

All of our information about coronavirus can be found on the website including our updated frequently asked questions: <https://iscaexeter.co.uk/parents/coronavirus-updates/>

If you have any questions at all or would like to notify us that your child is CEV, can you please email us at COVID@iscaexeter.co.uk

We would really appreciate your support in talking to your child about the additional measures in place and to reiterate the importance of wearing face coverings and limiting social contact. Thank you for your overwhelming support and patience during this challenging time, it really is appreciated by us all.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher