



4th May 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

COVID-19 Measures Update

I have written to you on several occasions since September, to outline our expectations and COVID-19 precautionary measures. None of our measures have changed and remain in place until we receive further guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

One of the measures is that students walk in silence during lesson transition. There are several good reasons for this:

- Firstly, students are at more risk of crossing bubbles whilst walking around the building, moving from lesson to lesson and talking will increase the viral load.
- Secondly, we operate a one-way system and if students are socialising it can cause a hold-up, which can then lead to groups of students being unable to socially distance.
- Thirdly, due to our split timetable to protect year group bubbles, which has been in place since September, students are moving around school whilst lessons are going on for other year groups. As part of our COVID-19 precautions, windows and doors are open in classrooms, meaning it is really important that students walk in silence so as not to disrupt your child's learning.

These rules have been in place since September, there has been no change. However, since Easter a growing number of students are not following these expectations despite warnings and constant reminders. If students are noisy when moving around the building they will receive a short detention on the following day for 30 minutes. These are given without yet more warnings, as all children are fully aware of our expectations.

In the last few days, movement of student has seen vast improvement, helping us with our primary aim of maintaining a safe and calm environment. In fact, visitors to our site this week running extra-curricular sessions have noted that the school feels calm and relaxed.

These measures have been, and still are, temporary until we receive guidance from the DfE that we can return to the pre-COVID timetable and behaviour policy. With advice from the DfE, all the measures in place are to ensure the safety of over 900 people on the school site each day.

We understand that restrictions are changing across a wide range of venues, infection rates and deaths are all decreasing which is all extremely positive. We look forward to a time, hopefully not too far away, when I am able to write to you again with news of further positive changes.

We are proud of our students and our school and want to uphold a calm, respectful and considerate environment where everyone feels safe.

Yours faithfully

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