



Dear Parents / carers,

Re: Important update re: Coronavirus

I am pleased to report that, four weeks into the school year, our new arrangements and operating procedures are working well and students are clearly benefiting from being in school, classroom teaching and the social interaction with peers. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

My colleagues and I do not cease to be impressed by how our students have adapted so well to the many significant changes this term around school. Their co-operation and compliance with our new routines and expectations are enabling us to create and maintain a safe, calm and purposeful learning environment for students and staff.

I do, however, consider that complacency represents a significant risk to us both in school and the wider community and so want to take this opportunity to remind all of the key measures in place in school to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and to ensure we remain vigilant

We know that you will also be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a pupil or pupils are asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors / trustees.

<p>School reopening</p>	<p>We are currently running a full school timetable although one that includes staggered starts and end times. The major change during this period is that students are taught in designated areas within the schools in year group bubbles. This requires teacher rather than whole-scale student movement around the school in order to reduce the potential for the spread of the Covid-19 virus. We encourage all students and staff to maintain social distancing wherever possible.</p> <p>Please see the school reopening section of the website for full details of our reopening plan.</p> <p>https://www.warlinghamschool.co.uk/224/reopening-plans</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Current whole school attendance is 93.6% which compares to 94.6% for the same period last year. This demonstrates the extent to which students and families value the return to the classroom.</p> <p>Included with this letter are guidelines to support parental decisions regarding sending your child into school which we hope that you will find a helpful source of reference.</p>

<p>Coverage of the curriculum</p>	<p>We are currently operating a full curriculum offer but with some changes to the manner of delivery as a result of Covid-19.</p> <p>Key Stage three practical subjects (Science, Design Technology, Music, Drama and Art) are currently being taught in classrooms to mitigate against student movement within enclosed indoor spaces to reduce the potential for the spread of the virus. At Key Stage four, Science practical's are shown on screen or demonstrated by the teacher and other practical subjects have a reduced access to specialist areas to allow for cleaning in between use. Key stage five have dedicated specialist areas and thus practical lessons run as normal where possible.</p> <p>In regards to curriculum recovery, although we are teaching the new areas of study in line with year group expectations, we are building in regular opportunities to revisit areas covered during the enforced closure and have built into the curriculum offer opportunities to test prior knowledge, address misconceptions and where necessary re-teach key concepts.</p>
<p>Remote learning March - July 2020</p>	<p>During the period of closure, work was provided for students via fortnightly learning grids that included diagnostic assessment tools to provide instant feedback for students. We also provided within the fortnightly offer repair tasks or model answers to allow student response to work completed. This was supplemented by work set on teams later in the term once systems were better established.</p> <p>Our parental surveys showed that while students engaged well with remote learning a more structured day with lesson by lesson work set, mirroring the school timetable would support students and parents in the event of more remote learning in the future.</p>
<p>Remote learning in the future</p>	<p>Where students in any year group are not in school for all or part of the time (i.e. where rotas may be implemented) they will receive remote learning provision via Satchel One (Show My Homework) with additional continued use of Microsoft Teams. This blended learning approach will ensure students continue to study the broad and balanced curriculum and that work set mirrors the curriculum content and learning hours for each subject. Students will be provided with regular opportunities for retrieval, application and practice and assessment by teachers. We are confirming our arrangements with teachers and ensuring that curriculum and staffing plans reflect the possible need to implement remote learning.</p>
<p>Mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>We provide a Mental health and Wellbeing support centre called "The Bridge" which supports students returning from long term absence for mental and physical health reasons. The Bridge offers ongoing support for students with anxiety or</p>

	<p>mental health needs. This is accessed through Head of House referral.</p> <p>We also operate a team of Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA's) who support students with anxiety or mental health concerns – again, these are referred via our Head of House pastoral team.</p> <p>We also engage with “Learning Space”, an outside agency that come into school to provide mental health support and we employ a primary mental health worker for one day per week. Once again, all referrals are made through our Head of House team.</p> <p>We have also offered, since lockdown in March, access to Zumos - our online support provision which students can access at any time which provides mental health support and a medium through which to contact the school at any point if they are feeling anxious or low. This can be accessed through the school website.</p> <p>Any students who require support should see their Head of House or parents can contact us directly to request assistance.</p> <p>We also work closely with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to support families with referrals and early intervention.</p>
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Safety reminders for students in the local community

Students are reminded that they should wear a face covering in shops and when using public transport. It is not expected that children and young people will use public transport for short journeys which can be carried out on foot. We therefore encourage students to walk or cycle to school where possible.

We have received contact from members of the local community advising us of groups of students on their journey to and from school failing to maintain social distancing and wear face masks.

I therefore ask that consideration is shown by students to children, adults and other members of our local community, including older and more vulnerable people, outside school. Students should remember that adults are more susceptible to becoming unwell with coronavirus and they should therefore not congregate or walk abreast on pavements in such a way that makes it impossible for others to pass.

Arrangements for students who become unwell in school

Students, staff, parents and visitors are reminded that they should not come onto the school site if they (or a household member) have any of the symptoms of coronavirus.

We are very much aware that there is a cold going around at the moment which is making things more difficult, but if colds are accompanied by any of the three main symptoms of coronavirus, then self-isolation and testing should take place, notwithstanding the known difficulties experienced by some families and staff recently in obtaining access to local testing and home-testing kits.

Should students become unwell in school, we will provide the same level of care, will make necessary contact with parents/carers, and will only send students home where they present with coronavirus symptoms or are too unwell to remain in school. I want to reassure parents and carers that we will only send students home where they have a cough that is regular and persistent or if they have a temperature (it is unlikely that we will see an obvious case of loss of taste or smell – although we will act if we do). We will not take the decision to send a child home lightly and the decision will be made with reference to senior members of staff. Once a child has been sent home, all members of the household (i.e. siblings) will not be permitted to return to school until the end of the self-isolation period or until a negative test result has been obtained and provided to the school (for anyone displaying symptoms.) Attached to this letter is a flow chart for what to do if your child is unwell.

Arrangements in place for managing a confirmed case in school

If a student tests positive for coronavirus the school will make contact with the Department of Education helpline and will discuss the case with the local health protection team to identify appropriate next steps.

Based on the advice of the health protection team, we will identify **close contacts** of the symptomatic individual and parents/carers will be informed of the need to self-isolate for 14 days in line with [the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community](#). A return to school date will be communicated and if your child is well at the end of the 14 days period of self-isolation (and has not developed symptoms) then they will be able to return to school.

Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix within school makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case for us to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the School's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Yours sincerely



Mr Paul Foster
Headteacher