

RP/tb – 11 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to you regarding our first full week back in school and the fantastic start all of our students have made. Our new Year 7 students really benefitted from their two induction days. It was great to see so many happy smiling faces at the end of each day and to see their confidence grow across the two days as they got to know each other, their teachers and the school site.

Tuesday marked the return of students in Years 8 to 13 and a full school for the first time in nearly 6 months. I know I speak for the wider staff body when I say how fantastic it was to welcome students back for the first time and to hear what they have been doing during their time away. Overall, the students were fantastic; uniforms were all well-presented and students followed our new routines, keeping to their assigned areas of the school and ensuring we were able to protect year group bubbles.

A lot of time was spent on Tuesday going over our in-school hygiene measures and new routines to ensure we can keep the school community safe during the coronavirus outbreak. Whilst this was successful, as with any routines, it is repetition that will ensure these are embedded and are completed successfully in the longer term. To this end, I would be grateful if you would re-affirm the following points with your child. Students should:

- Arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before their year groups assigned start time.
- Avoid being late, this risks mixing year group bubbles and students missing out on valuable learning time.
- Line up on the Maths playground at their assigned start time at the beginning of the day in their Period 1 teaching groups. They need to do this quickly and quietly so that we can get them in to school promptly.
- At break, students in Year 7 to 10 have the following spaces available:
 - o Dining hall – to purchase food which needs to be consumed in the dining hall
 - o The seating behind the dining hall
 - o Tennis courts
- At break, Year 11 should go to the Maths playground. Those who wish to purchase food can do so from the orange social area.
- At the end of break students should go straight to their Period 3 lessons, there is no need to line up on the Maths playground.
- All year groups have access to the dining hall, outdoor seating and tennis courts at lunch. Only those purchasing food should use the dining hall.
- When the whistle is blown at the end of lunch, all year groups should then line up in their Period 5 teaching groups on the Maths playground.

- Please remind students that they need to sanitise their hands on entry and exit to every classroom and building. This is especially important at the end of the day, as leaving the building will be their final chance to sanitise before exiting the site.

COVID-19 Symptoms and Self-Isolation

Students have shown a great deal of maturity in the way they have approached their return to school, but it is crucial we can maintain these standards as we move through the term. There has been a great deal of media attention in recent days regarding rising coronavirus infection rates nationally. The last thing any of us would want is another school closure, so please support the school in reiterating the importance of good hand hygiene and social distancing at 2m, wherever possible. I fully appreciate that having students at home self-isolating for 10 or 14 days poses a significant inconvenience for many, particularly as we return to a degree of normality in our working lives. However, the guidance is clear that anyone who is symptomatic, or who lives in a household with someone who is, must self-isolate. Such measures are the only way we can keep the school open and operate safely.

I have included with this letter a quick reference guide to support you in knowing what to do should your child or someone in your household show symptoms. Additional information can be found at the websites detailed below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Students will this week have received their knowledge organiser, the regular use of these documents underpin our core curriculum. You will receive further information on their use next week, alongside our remote learning plans in place for those self-isolating. We have had to make some changes to our behaviour policy in light of the restrictions placed on schools at present. You will find an updated policy available from Monday via our website, along with our full re-opening risk assessment.

Finally, can I remind parents dropping students off to school that they should not be using the school car park. We have large numbers of students moving through this area and it is simply not safe to do so. Please drop-off on the roads surrounding the school site.

Thank you again for your continued support. We are all unsure of what the next few months will hold, but we will adapt as is necessary to ensure our students are fully supported throughout this period.

Yours faithfully
The Long Eaton School

R Peel

Mr R Peel
Headteacher