

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 latest update

I am writing to you following the Government's guidance updated on 4 November and the fact that we have gone into a second national lockdown until 2nd December. Despite us now being in a national lockdown the Government have said schools should remain open. It remains very important for children and young people to attend school, to support their wellbeing and education. As you will be aware, I have implemented a range of protective measures to help keep students and staff safe and we continue to review all these measures.

Face masks

Face masks will now be mandatory for all students in Year 7 and above (unless medical exemption applies) when moving around the site or where social distancing is not easy to maintain. This means students here at the academy will need to ensure they have a face mask/covering and wear it on entry into and exit out of the academy; when they are moving between lessons and in corridors and when queueing in the canteen to purchase food. We will NOT be supplying face masks/coverings every day so **please ensure your child has their face mask/covering with them every day.** If your child is exempt please ensure you have communicated this to your child's Head of Year so they can be issued with an exemption card.

Students who are clinically extremely vulnerable

For any student who is considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable they are advised not to attend school during this period. If you are not sure if this is the case for your child, please confirm with your doctor and medical team. If advised by medical professionals not to attend, students will access their lessons via TEAMS through the remote learning we have set up. Please see our flow chart here: <http://www.staldhelms-academy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Parent-friendly-flowchart.pdf>. The Government has advised that children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school at this time.

Visitors

Government guidance advises that schools should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary. As you will be aware, we have only been offering meetings with parents by appointment only and these have had to take place after school. In the light of the current lockdown and guidance we will be restricting visits to the academy to those that are absolutely necessary.

After school clubs

As you will be aware, we have just launched our after-school clubs for this half-term. Following Government guidance, we are still able to offer these as they are in their year group bubbles and run by our own academy staff. We feel clubs will support the wellbeing of our students and will offer them activities after school at a time when there are few options of organised activities outside of school during the lockdown.

Risk Assessment

I have updated the academy's risk assessment and you can find this on the website here:

<http://www.staldhelms-academy.co.uk/academy-information/plans-for-september/>

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your ongoing support as we continue to remain open for all students. I trust you and your families will stay safe and well during this lockdown period.

Yours sincerely



Jo Amos
Principal

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