



Shirley High School

Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

TM/KAW/Lockdown2
6 November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you and your families are safe, well and coping with the new lockdown. Late in the week the government published fresh guidance regarding the new national lockdown that started yesterday, I would therefore like to address some issues so that you are aware of the actions we have taken as a school to ensure the safety of both students and staff.

Face Coverings:

As part of our existing Risk Assessment face covering must be worn in all community areas outside of designated bubble locations. They must be stored in a plastic bag at all other times if not in use. We would suggest the use of reusable facemasks so that disposable ones are not placed in school bins, should students dispose of facemasks onsite they must use the lidded bins provided.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

The current guidance means that unfortunately clubs such as PE will stop during the lockdown. Our amazing PE department have been running numerous clubs and House activities since the clubs resumed and I know the staff will be as disappointed as the students. Under the guidance, clubs that are educational or training can continue and we are awaiting a response to see if PE clubs would be classed as training however, until then only selected educational clubs will continue.

Extended Learning:

Extended learning and catch up sessions before and after school will continue.

Saturday School:

Saturday School will continue as we continue to do all we can to help close the gap of the previous lockdown and protect the educational futures of our students. Students selected to come to school on Saturday must ensure they have their invitation letter / email on them which will clearly state the day and time of their sessions. Students are expected to head directly home after their session is complete.

Detentions – changes from November 2020:

As you are aware our behaviour detentions are currently scheduled on Saturdays. This decision was made to cope with the different timetables and staggers for each year group and the changes to our general way of working. It was decided that this, combined with the difficulties some of our families are currently going through, meant that it would be better to allow out students to go home straight after school during the week.

It was also decided that we would adopt a more educative rather than legislative approach to students breaching the rules following the lengthy lockdown period and re-educate the students to behaving

Principal: Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

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in line with our high behaviour expectations. The students were told that although behaviour incidents would be logged and show on their behaviour record they would only be placed in a Saturday detention for achieving 10 or more behaviour points in a week.

Achieving 10 or more behaviour points in a week is significant and demonstrates continuous poor choices which in turn impacts on teaching and learning. These poor choices will not be tolerated when, as a school, we continue to strive to catch our students up, re-engage them with learning and put them back on the educational journey to success.

Unfortunately, we are now in a position due to the National Lockdown where we now need to pause the Saturday detentions until we are able to resume them. Although it would be good to have no student achieving more than 10 behaviour points in a week we will still need to have arrangements for sanctions in place in case they are necessary.

Detentions during the National Lockdown will now be run after school on a Friday and will be scheduled as follows in their respective bubble or neutral locations:

Year 7 @ 3.00 pm; Year 8 @ 3.15pm; Year 9 @ 3.15; Year 10 @ 3.30pm. Year 11, 12 & 13 @ 3.45pm.

Students achieving 10 or more behaviour points will have a 60 minute detention, students achieving 15 or more behaviour points in a week will have a 90 minute detention. Any student achieving more than 20 behaviour points in a week will be referred to the Seclusion Unit for Respite & Reflection.

The importance of parents / carers supporting the school's high behaviour expectations is paramount and your support of this is appreciated so we can work in partnership to maintain our high standards as well as improve behaviour where required.

Attendance:

It is appreciated that the National Lockdown has caused further stress and anxiety to families at this time but it is necessary to remind you that the government guidance regarding attendance at school has not changed:

DfE 05.11.20:

It is vital for all children to attend school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance has therefore been mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's attendance regularly at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

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Please be advised that we cannot authorise absence for students whose parents / carers have decided to keep them at home for anxiety related issues. We are happy to meet with parents/carers to discuss these issues and where necessary go through the current school operations and measures in place to keep our community safe. It is also important to know that work will not be provided for students at home for these reasons. Work is only provided for students who:

- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves;
- live with someone that has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact;
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19);
- have been asked to self-isolate following PHE advice to the school following information regarding a positive case in the school;
- are complying with clinical or public health advice.

Good Practice:

Regular washing of hand is the most important step to take in reducing the spread of COVID19. Toilets and communal areas are fully stocked with soap. Hand sanitiser can be found on the entrance to all buildings and classrooms and students continue to work in their specific bubbles.

Vigilance:

There have been a number of unpleasant incidents reported in the Press and by the Local Authority involving attempted and actual acts of harm on school children travelling to and from school. If your children walk or use public transport please remind them to be vigilant when travelling anywhere and where possible not to travel alone. The usual reminders about sitting downstairs on buses near the driver, using busy rather than empty carriages on trams and walking along busy main routes rather than shortcuts and alleyways is advised.

We know these are challenging times for us all but we repeat our message that we will get through this and, when we do, it is important that the students of our school still have the belief, desire and opportunities to fulfil their potential and become successful global citizens. We remain all in this together and together #weareshirley.

Yours sincerely

T Myton
Principal

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