



11 September 2020

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

It has been wonderful to see all Sixth Form students in College this week; to welcome our new Year 12 and to have our Year 13 back for their final year.

I would like to thank and congratulate all students for the maturity that they have shown during their Induction Days and the way they have engaged with and followed all of the new systems in place around the College in order to maintain the highest standards of Health and Safety across the site. While we hope that all students will be able to adapt to this new way of working, we do of course have a lot of support on offer if there are any problems. Students should not hesitate to speak to their Tutor or any member of the Sixth Form Team if they have any questions.

It is so important that all students continue to abide by the social distancing guidelines that they will have been introduced to over their induction period. We do, as a College, expect students to provide their own face coverings, as they would for use in the wider community. Wearing a mask in outside communal areas, all Sixth Form study spaces and at the various transition points (for example, moving between lessons) within College is imperative in terms of reducing the risk. They can be removed in lessons as soon as students are seated and facing the front in their classroom; we would encourage all students to have a clear and labelled plastic bag or similar, for them to store their mask in safely whilst the lesson is taking place.

In order to minimise risk, student breaktimes have been adjusted to ensure Year Group Hubs do not mix at breaktimes. The College day has been planned with split breaks to ensure that only two Year Groups are on break at any one time. Each Year Group has been allocated a designated dining room and recreational space. The Sixth Form have been allocated Peverall Hall as their dining room where there will be a limited selection of packaged hot food and sandwiches available for purchasing (the thumb recognition system will be in use with sanitisation routines deployed). Other Sixth Form common spaces will be unavailable during breaktimes to allow for cleaning. Students are still permitted to leave site to buy lunch or when they are not in lessons, but they must sign in and out of College using their College ID card and return via the Main College Entrance only.

On Monday, all students and parents/carers will receive an electronic copy of the Sixth Form Handbook containing all of our key information which students have been reminded of today, including our Standards and Expectations in the Sixth Form and Dress Code.

As part of the Induction Programme, information was provided on our strategy for Remote Learning and what will happen in the event of any self-isolation or changes in the national picture and guidance.

On that note, I am sure that everyone is fully aware of the changes being made at a national level from Monday, and the news regarding the increased rate of cases in 17 – 29 year olds.

'The UK government's chief medical adviser, Prof Chris Whitty, who No 10 said backed urgent action in England, has said Covid-19 rates are now rising, especially among people between the ages of 17 and 29. He warned that if people stopped social distancing then "Covid comes back"'

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As a result of this information, and spikes in the Plymouth area, we have sought advice and taken the decision to update our Health and Safety measures for our Sixth Form. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made to support the **social distancing** and **infection prevention of our young adults**, but yet maintain the highest quality curriculum and wrap around provision.

Therefore, we will now be adopting a one week on-site, one week off-site rota for all Sixth Form students. During their off-site week, students will follow their normal timetable, including Tutor block and CPSHE, and **log in to 'live lessons'** which will be delivered at the **normal time** and by their normal classroom teacher. Attendance will be recorded and followed up in the usual way.

Students will continue to receive their normal curriculum planned delivery hours; the difference being that 50% of this will be delivered remotely thus reducing the number of older students on-site at any one time and helping students to maintain social distancing by staying at home.

Any students who are unable to access the live lessons remotely, by prior arrangement, will be allowed to come into College to join the lesson in the classroom.

We appreciate that this is a short notice change, but unfortunately, we are reacting to daily DfE and local news. I hope you feel that given the current situation this is a sensible preventative measure that we need to do and have acted accordingly.

This model will run as a temporary arrangement for the first half term and then be reviewed in accordance with Public Health England updates, staff, student and parent/carer feedback.

In order to phase in the new arrangements, the plan for next week will be as follows:

**Year 12 on-site Monday and Tuesday, Year 13 off-site and logging in to 'live lessons'
Year 13 on-site Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Year 12 off-site 'live lessons'.**

From **Monday, 21 September** (week A) the rota will then commence as follows:

Week (A) Year 12 on-site, Year 13 off-site and logging in to 'live lessons'

From **Monday, 28 September** (week B) this will change to:

Week (B) Year 13 on-site, Year 12 off-site and logging in to 'live lessons'.

This will then continue and repeat for the remainder of the half-term.

To clarify, from Monday, 21 September (week A) we have:

Week A	Week B
Year 12 on-site	Year 12 off-site
Year 13 off-site	Year 13 on-site

Please can I remind students who travel on any College transport that you are expected to wear a mask at all times, with Sixth Form students sitting at the back of the bus in Year Group order. For those of you who travel on Ivybridge Community College buses, any charges will be reduced accordingly in line with the days that you are expected in College over the first half term.

On a final note, if any students are unable to access virtual lessons from home due to the lack of internet services, or necessary computer hardware, or you have a particular need that

requires face-to-face support please do not hesitate to come in to College on Monday so that we can support you accordingly.

This decision has not been taken lightly by the College and we want to continue to put the wellbeing and safety of our staff and students first.

Yours faithfully

Heather Lilley
Deputy Principal