



1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The purpose of my letter is to update and reassure you on how the implementation of our new protective measures is going and to ask for your continued support in regularly reminding your child of the restrictions and rules in place to protect our school community.

The Coronavirus pandemic has obviously necessitated the enforcement of many new rules, restrictions and ways of working on our young people and therefore it is vitally important that we keep reminding them of the measures that we have put in place and why they are there.

Since we changed our model of operating, the students have responded extremely well to the changes we have made and lessons are much more productive now the additional changes have been embedded.

A summary of the most important measures that we have put in place to protect our school community can be found below. There are many more measures in place within each department and area of the school but these are the most important and school-wide measures.

Protective Measure	Why?
One-way systems are in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A one way system has been introduced around the school site to ensure that face-to-face contact between individuals is kept to a minimum.</li><li>• Where outdoor paths are used as two-way walkways, they have been marked as such and students are required to walk on the left at all times.</li><li>• Students enter the site via 3 separate entrance gates, Year 7 &amp; 8 via the Bus Gates, Year 9 &amp; 10 via the Canteen Gates &amp; Year 11 by the Former 6<sup>th</sup> Form Gate, so that they remain within their own bubble groups ( Y7 + 8 , Y9 + 10 and Y11 (3 bubbles).</li></ul>
Year groups have specific dining areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To keep 'bubbles' intact during social times and to prevent mixing between 'bubbles', the schools 3 separate student bubble groups use different playground locations, with staggered lunchtimes.</li><li>• With lunches and snacks being provided within each of these bubble group areas.</li><li>• With the cleaning of tables and chairs between users of the different bubbles within the Dining Room.</li><li>• Staff supervise these areas at all times to ensure that appropriate COVID safety control measures place at all times and that social distancing, the wearing of face masks and handwashing takes place.</li></ul>

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Year groups have specific social areas	<p>To ensure that the 3 bubble groups remain intact during social times and to prevent mixing between each bubble group they have been provided exclusive Play Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 7 Y7 playground</li> <li>• Year 8 outside Art block and History</li> <li>• Year 9 Music Quad &amp; barked pens</li> <li>• Year 10 Y10 playground</li> <li>• Year 11 Canteen &amp; outside the Canteen</li> </ul>
Face coverings are worn at all times while travelling around the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and staff are required to wear a clean, dry face covering each day and are required to wear this at all times while travelling around the site. Students are required to wear their face coverings during social times, while they are not eating or playing and should bring a sealable plastic bag in which to keep it while it is not being used. This is to keep others safe and reduce risk of transmission where social distancing is not possible, for example when students are stood talking face-to-face with friends.</li> </ul>
Classrooms are cleaned down after each lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using the recommended detergents, all classrooms are cleaned down after every lesson so that surfaces are clean and ready for the next class.</li> </ul>
Enhanced cleaning is in place around the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our daytime cleaning team circulate the communal areas of the site at all times during the school day to regularly clean all high touch points such as doors (where not able to be propped open) and toilet areas. At the end of each day, every area of the school is thoroughly cleaned by our evening cleaning team.</li> </ul>
Toilets have maximum occupancies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every toilet block around the school has a maximum occupancy sign on the door and students are asked to observe this maximum occupancy at all times.</li> <li>• With each of the different bubble groups being allocated their own toilet blocks.</li> <li>• The toilets are regularly cleaned with staff supervising the use of the toilet facilities throughout the day and the students are encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet.</li> </ul>
Classrooms are forward facing and well ventilated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classrooms have been arranged to ensure seating pupils side by side and facing forwards. Additionally every room has been assessed to ensure natural ventilation including opening windows enough to provide constant background ventilation, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space.</li> </ul>

There are more staff on duty during social times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to ensure that the 'bubbles' are kept as separate as is possible, we have placed additional duty staff between the 'bubbles' social areas to keep them separate.</li> </ul>
Students line up on playgrounds to reduce congestion in corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site's classrooms have a one way system in place for entry and egress, which reduces face-to-face contact between individuals and allows for an orderly and controlled entry into the classrooms to reduce congestion.</li> </ul>
Students when dismissed from their lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exit via the classrooms alternative final exit doors and out into fresh air so that they do not meet in stairwells, corridors and other confined spaces.</li> <li>This stops students from coming into face-to-face contact with others during lesson changeovers.</li> </ul>
Hand sanitiser units have been installed around the site both internally and externally to the sites buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to the hand washing facilities available in all bathrooms, all classrooms and all communal spaces have a hand sanitiser unit installed to facilitate students to have good hand hygiene, reducing the likelihood of virus transmission.</li> </ul>

The key reminders for students, with which I would appreciate your continued support, are that:

- That they must stick to their year group's social and dining spaces at all times.
- That they must wear their face covering at all times while travelling around the site, unless exempt.
- That they must follow the one-way systems in place around the site, walking on the left in the two-way areas.

In addition to our previous uniform reminder I thought the following clarification points may be helpful. Most parents have been supportive that the wide range of uniform available and the use of base layers and coats allows for students to remain warm as we ventilate the rooms to keep everyone safe. As we will encourage as much time outdoors as possible at social times coats are essential. We feel there are many options available within the range of school uniform items available to ensure our students can stay warm without dropping our uniform standards, Non-school uniform items will not be allowed.

### **School Uniform**

- Full school uniform should be worn at all times.
- There are no non-school uniform jumpers allowed including plain black hooded jumpers.
- Students can wear base layers under shirts and the black V neck jumper, in addition, under their blazer and a coat.
- When layers are removed a blazer must always be worn.

- Students must not wear their PE Hoodies under their blazer
- Students can wear coats in classrooms at teacher discretion. They must have full uniform including the school blazer under their coat. It is reasonable if teachers keep their coats on as they are cold so can the students. It is also reasonable to insist coats are not worn in warm rooms.

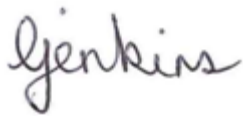
#### **PE uniform**

- Cannot be worn on non PE days. This will be treated as a uniform policy violation. Parents will be asked to bring in uniform or an isolation may be put into place.
- For PE students can wear any plain black bottoms including joggers or sports leggings to ensure they are warm.
- On PE days students can wear any **AVA top** - hoodie, v neck, blazer, sweater (some have old AVCC sweater) coat in any combination.

Our primary aim by continuing to monitor our COVID safety control measures is to ensure the safety of your children and that of our staff, so that we all can stay safe during these challenging times.

If we can help you in any way, please do let us know.

Yours sincerely



Laura Jenkins  
Headteacher