



City of Armagh High School

Principal:

Mr C Douglas, BEng, PGCE, MEd

Vice Principal:

Mrs K P Mulholland, BSc (Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI)

1st November 2020

Dear parent/guardians

We hope everyone has had a restful and safe extended half term break. We are looking forward to all pupils returning tomorrow (Monday 2nd November).

The Department of Education has issued new guidance for pupils and students travelling to school on Education Authority, Translink and privately contracted services (buses, taxis etc.). It is now mandatory for all post primary aged pupils to wear a face covering (medical and SEN exemptions apply).

Our pupils will also now be expected to wear a face covering while they are waiting for and boarding buses at the end of the school day.

To relieve congestion, pupils who are walking home should avoid the bus area and walk down the TD steps and around the side of the school building to exit the school grounds.

As we prepare for a return to school can I remind everyone of the procedures in place if you suspect someone in your household has COVID-19.

If you (or anyone in your household) has one or more of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);

OR

- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);

OR

- A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste

Everyone you live with must stay at home. Do not send your child to school and arrange a test as soon as possible.

If you (or anyone in your household) tests positive for COVID-19, everyone in your household must self-isolate.

If you are a close contact of someone who has COVID- 19, you must self-isolate.

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Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents and pupils of the other mitigations and procedures we have in place to protect pupils and staff:

- When pupils and staff are using corridors / communal areas face coverings are required to be worn (unless exempt). Pupils **must** come to school with their own face covering.
- All year groups and the LSC & ASC have self-contained bubbles / learning zones. Pupils must stay within their own bubble/learning zone (unless escorted by a member of staff to another area eg. PE, computer room).
- Bubbles/learning zones have their own entrance/exit, toilets, classrooms, outdoor spaces and lunchtime procedures
- Pupils need to strictly adhere to social distancing regulations.
- All entrance / exit areas are fitted with a hand sanitiser station and all pupils must sanitise hands upon entrance and exit from the bubble / learning zone.
- Pupils will be instructed to wash their hands regularly throughout the day.
- Pupils will be expected to wipe down their own desk surfaces (primarily years 11 and 12) and computer keyboards (all year groups) when they leave the room with materials provided.
- School is closed to visitors, including parents. Visits **must** be by appointment only; where a parental visit is agreed only one parent should be in attendance. Should parents need to contact the school for any reason, the first contact should be made via telephone. All visitors to the school must supply and wear their own face covering.
- On days where pupils have a PE lesson, they should wear school PE kit to school. Jumpers/hoodies (other than a school hoodie) are not permitted.

We are very proud of how our school community have adapted to our new rules and procedures to keep everyone safe. Staff will, as always, continue to support pupils with our new procedures.

Yours sincerely,

K Mulholland

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