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[f](#) Fairfield High School – FHS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a brief update to let you know that we continuing to have an excellent return to school. The many students I speak to are happy to be back and are enjoying lessons. Our COVID measures are working well and students are coping well with the new routines and rules. As you would expect, it is important that we all reinforce the key messages and that is what the rest of this letter is mostly about.

Student illness. Now that school is reopen, all students are expected to attend and parents must inform us of reasons for absences, if your child were to be absent with COVID symptoms please report that to us. The NHS advice is to call 111 and if appropriate book a test. School will need to know that has happened and what the outcome of the test is. Absence for other reasons also need to be reported

Face Masks/ Coverings. Students are cooperating very well with this however, a small number of students are arriving in school without masks either because they have forgotten them at home, or they were disposable masks and have broken. Getting a permanent mask for your child and ideally a spare will help us all keep everyone safe. Please make it a routine to double check that your child is leaving the house with a mask. As you will all know we have a limited space in our building and the face masks allow us to move students from place to place with minimal risk.

Exemptions from Face Masks / Coverings. Our expectation is that all but a very few students will wear face masks. If you would like an exemption for your child, contact the appropriate Achievement Coordinator (Head of Year) or tutor so that we can issue an exemption note. We do not require you to get a medical note, the NHS is busy enough, but we do need the request to come from home. In general, even students with pre-existing conditions such as Asthma should be able to wear masks (as indicated by the National Asthma Society). Students will put their masks on about 10 times in a day and typically just for a minute or two to move around the building. Wearing the mask is a small but very important control for us.

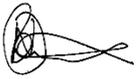
Social Distancing / “Space” especially on the way to school – the “Rule of Six”. Please continue to reinforce the need for your child to keep other people at arm length, any closer would require a mask. This is especially important when walking to and from school. From Monday it will be law for group sizes to be no more than six. Whilst this doesn’t apply in schools, I think it is important that students know that they cannot gather socially in groups of more than six. We will be explaining this in school. Please do the same at home. Students will need time to adjust to the new need to social distance more stringently than they have over the summer.

Deliberate touch. A few of our students have come back to school and have wanted to enjoy games such as “tag”, or to be physically close to good friends. Sadly, we cannot allow that to happen in the current circumstances. Where this is happening innocently our main approach is to remind students of the new normal. Where students repeatedly ignore warnings or deliberately touch others knowing that this isn’t accepted, we will follow up with a sanction in the first instance and contact parents as this is very high-risk behaviour.

Advance Warning - Wet weather – Be prepared. In my return to school letter before the start of term. I reminded parents that students would need a decent waterproof coat this year as, in all but heavy rain students, would be outside at break and lunch. So far, we have only experienced light rain, but Winter is approaching and I know some parents will need time to purchase coats or umbrellas. Please label these items to make the return of expensive lost property easy.

Finally, a lovely item of good news. Fairfield High School have won the Cross Trust Powerful Allies 2020 Carbon Challenge. We reduced our energy consumption by a huge 35.5% in the period September 2019 to February 2020 compared to the previous year. The next best school reduced theirs by 14.6%. So, huge congratulations and thank you to everyone who focused their time on reducing our environmental footprint, not least our students, led by the students ECO Team. It just goes to show that small collective actions such as switching off lights do make a difference.

Best Wishes



Nick Lewis

Principal

An International Academy

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