

3rd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you with a few updates as we start the second half of the autumn term. I hope all students managed to have a restful half term break. I realise the next few weeks will be challenging for us all as the increased national measures come into place, but please remember that school remains fully open for all students.

Parents in Partnership

Our first Parents in Partnership (PIP) meeting is scheduled for 8th December 2020 at 6pm, PIP is a group of parents who meet regularly with members of the school senior leadership team. They provide an important forum for us to get feedback from parents on key areas of the school's development. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Mrs Fox, Assistant Headteacher (Professional Learning) at foxv@sghs.org.uk

Health and Safety

We were visited by 2 inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive in the penultimate week of half term as part of their national programme checking Covid19 arrangements and adaptations within schools. The inspectors spent time reviewing the school risk assessment and processes and met with senior leaders in the school and Trust. During their site visit they spoke to several staff about the adaptations that have been put in place and how well students and staff were following these.

The lead inspector reported that we were fully compliant with all aspects of the guidance for schools and commented on how compliant the students were with the new ways of working and the wearing of face coverings in communal areas.

As the weather gets colder I would remind parents it is important for students to have a warm outdoor coat, both for their travel to school and to be worn in classrooms, if necessary, as schools must now keep windows open during the day to ensure good ventilation. We have also increased the heating settings in school.

Please can I remind parents that students must wear face coverings on public transport and school buses at all times, unless they are exempt. Please ensure your child leaves home with a face covering.

It is vital that students do not come into school if they, or a member of their household, has any of the 3 Covid19 symptoms, or if a member of their household is awaiting the outcome of a Covid19 test.

Parents evenings

We will be moving to online parents' evenings for the foreseeable future, these will take place through the parents' evening online booking system. The first one is for Year 9 and further information on this will be sent to Year 9 parents in the coming weeks.



Student Wellbeing

We are very conscious that the last 8 months have been particularly challenging for some of our students and, in addition to the excellent support offered by our Student Progress team, we have increased the school counsellor, Anna McQuade's, time in school to 3 days a week.

I am delighted that we have a trainee education mental health practitioner, Verity Callagher, working with us one day a week as part of the Bradford and Craven Trailblazer Project. As part of Verity's training she will be working with students and offering some parental support groups. Further details will be published in due course.

Parking and drop off

Whilst the vast majority of parents follow our advice about not dropping students near the school site, I have received several complaints in the last few weeks about parents parking across driveways in local streets. Please can I ask that all parents are considerate of the local residents if you are collecting or dropping students off by car.

Finally, I would like to say a thank you for all the kind messages of support and thanks that we received from parents towards the end of last half term, reflecting the ongoing hard work of our students and staff in these difficult times, it is much appreciated.

I will keep in regular contact throughout this term with any updates as necessary.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Turner', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Turner
Head of Academy