

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Y12 and Y13 lunch arrangements 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**

As the new national measures commence tomorrow people are being asked only to leave home or travel for essential purposes, which includes for education. Normally sixth form students are allowed to leave the school site at lunchtime and many go out to buy their lunch in town, however, in view of the new restrictions this would probably not be deemed as essential. We are asking Y12 and Y13 students to remain onsite during lunchtime. They will need to bring a packed lunch or purchase food from Westbank Bistro, Catering Academy are increasing the availability of food to ensure all students can access a hot meal if they wish. Students have been informed of these changes by Mr Blythe today.

Students are still able to come in for the start of period 2, if they don't have a lesson first thing, and leave after tutor time if they don't have a lesson period 4.

### **Parents in Partnership**

Our first Parents in Partnership (PIP) meeting is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



Mark Turner  
Head of Academy