



## Nidderdale High School

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Headteacher: Kath Jordan

Our ref: KJ/ar

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As this second period of national lockdown comes into force, I wanted to write to you to keep you updated regarding the measures in place in school to ensure that our community remains safe and learning can continue uninterrupted.

We had already reviewed our risk assessment and made a change relating to face coverings in school before the lockdown guidance was issued by the Department for Education but now that this guidance has been issued, I can confirm the following:

### Face coverings

From today it is **mandatory** for all members of our school community to wear a face covering at all times in corridors and communal areas. At this school our communal areas are the school hall and the toilets. Students are not required to wear face coverings outside.

During wet break or lunchtime, if students are permitted to remain in classrooms, they must wear a face covering at this time as they will not be sitting in a designated seating plan and will be mixing more freely.

During lessons students are not required to wear a face covering in the classroom. Students who prefer to do so will, of course, be allowed to.

It is also now **mandatory** for students to wear a face covering for their entire journey on all school transport.

Please can you ensure that your child has a clean reusable face mask for school every day or a supply of disposable masks for the day. Whilst the school does have stock of masks that can be provided if a mask becomes lost or damaged during the day, I would ask that you do all that you can to ensure your child is properly equipped for the day. As you will be aware, schools are not being provided with any additional funding to cover the cost of risk assessment control measures.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering and you haven't already informed us about this, please contact school to confirm this.

### Ventilation in classrooms

We are still required to keep doors and windows open to create the best flow of fresh air through the building. We can now reduce the number of windows that are open and do not need to open them fully. However, even with the heating on, it will be cold on occasion. Please remember that we have relaxed our uniform rules about jumpers so that any plain black jumper or cardigan may be worn in addition to the school blazer. We will keep this under review and students will be permitted to wear further layers if necessary. However, I would ask that you do your best to source a Nidderdale logo black hoodie, a school trip or house hoodie or a plain black hoodie as students will not be permitted to wear sweatshirts and hoodies with brand logos, slogans or bold patterns in school.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs and PE

Unfortunately, after school sports clubs are not permitted under the new guidance and will be postponed until further notice. PE lessons will continue in their current form and we are still not using the changing rooms so students should still attend in PE kit on PE lesson days. Please ensure that your child is wearing plain black tracksuit bottoms or leggings and a school hoodie if they need to wear additional layers on PE days.

### School trips

For the period of national lockdown, we will not be running any trips or visits. However, local off-site education provision that is an ongoing part of our curriculum will continue. Parents of students involved in the planned Year 7 trip to Great Whernside on Tuesday will be contacted separately.

### Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Staff and Students

Any member of staff who is in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable group has now been advised to work from home. We will do all that we can to minimise disruption to your child's education, but I know that you will understand that safety and adherence to the new guidance must take priority.

If your child is in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable category and you have received a letter from the NHS or your GP regarding school attendance, please contact school to agree the best way forward.

### **Household members who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable**

The current guidance remains that if a household member is in the CEV category then children can and should still attend school. If you have any concerns regarding this, please do contact us and we will be happy to discuss any additional measures that can be put in place to maintain school attendance.

### **Clinically Vulnerable Staff and Students**

Current guidance states that staff and students in this category can continue to attend school. This does affect a number of our staff team, as I explained to students earlier in the week. I would be grateful for your support in reinforcing the messages about respecting and following all of our safety measures to protect those members of our community who are at greater risk of becoming unwell if they come into contact with the virus.

Every member of our staff team is 100% committed to being in school and providing the very best educational and pastoral experience they can in these challenging times. We want to continue to run the school as it is without introducing further restrictions. We are confident this will be possible if everyone follows the guidance.

### **Self-Isolation - close contacts**

If your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case by the school or by contact tracers then they must self-isolate for the full 14 days. Nobody else in the household is required to isolate. Work will be provided by school via Teams.

If your child develops symptoms whilst self-isolating then they must get a test and all members of the household must self-isolate immediately rather than waiting for the results of a test. If the test is negative your child still needs to complete the original isolation period. If it is positive then everyone must continue to isolate and you will need to inform school so that we can make a decision about further contact tracing.

### **Self-isolation - symptoms**

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 then please keep them off school immediately and arrange for a test. The entire household will need to self-isolate immediately until test results are known. Please inform school as soon as possible, including at the weekend via email so that we can make any decisions about contact tracing. If the test is negative your child can return to school as soon as they feel well. If it is positive they will need to isolate for 10 days even if they feel better more quickly. Work will be provided via Teams for completion when your child is well enough to do so.

### **Self-isolation - household member with symptoms**

If you or a member of your household develops symptoms, please keep your child off school immediately or arrange to collect them from school if necessary. Your child must self-isolate until a negative test result is returned. If the household member does test positive then your child must isolate for 14 days. Work will be provided via Teams.

In order to reduce the necessity to ask other school community members to self-isolate, it is extremely important that self-isolation starts as soon as anyone has symptoms. Please do not wait for a positive test result before taking your child out of school.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- 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)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

As we enter into this period of further enforced lockdown, we are conscious that the impact of the measures will be greater for some families than others. Domestic concerns, employment issues, health concerns and the impact of restrictions on where you can go and who you can see will be affecting all of you in different ways. We remain committed making school a safe, purposeful and enjoyable learning environment for all of our students and to supporting families in whatever way we can over the next month.

Please do be in touch if you have any concerns or require any support.

Very best wishes.

Kath Jordan  
Headteacher