



25 September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

After the glorious Indian summer of the past few weeks we are now returning to more standard autumnal weather. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 rates of infection nationally and locally are on the rise and it is more important than ever that we take every possible preventative step to stem the infection rate. With this in mind I would reiterate the recent message that we **strongly advise all pupils to wear a face mask in communal areas such as corridors**, when they are in school, as well as maintaining the social distancing and hand-sanitising measures already in place.

We are very pleased that most students have hit the ground running in terms of uniform and behaviour and we now need to apply similar determination to establishing a culture of mask-wearing everywhere in school apart from classrooms.

For students above the age of 16 there is also the possibility of using the **new NHS track and trace app**. This is particularly relevant to those pupils who travel daily on public transport. Again we would reiterate that **it is a legal requirement to wear a face-mask at all times on public transport**.

Details of the new NHS app are available here:

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

It will be important, however, to **pause the app when mobile phones are in lockers or bags**, to prevent false readings.

I would also draw your attention to the letter from Professor Jim McManus the Director of Health from Hertfordshire County Council. Pages 4 to 6 contain very pertinent practical advice.

There is a strong possibility that schools may soon be required to switch to a rota system with different year groups alternating the days on which they attend, if we get to a Tier 2 Covid-19 situation. Looking at what is already happening in other schools locally and nationally, there is also the risk that whole year groups could be required to quarantine at very short notice. In the light of this, it is imperative that everyone is fully ready to use **Google classroom** for remote learning at home. Mr Sudbery's letter has full details of **log-ins, passwords etc** and I would urge you to go through these with your child as soon as possible. About half of you completed the survey regarding home computing access and if you have expressed a need for assistance with the loan of a laptop we will be contacting you shortly.

Because our children have lost so much schooling already due to the last lockdown it is imperative that we don't lose any further ground. With this in mind **our plan is to teach lessons at the normal timetabled times online if or when students are required to work from home**. These will be recorded and made available online, but we will be taking registers as usual and **we will be expecting all students to log-in remotely from home for every single lesson** unless illness makes this impossible.

Because of the Covid-19 threat we have been unable to host an open day as originally planned. However, a number of video clips sharing the new vision of the school and showing the children enjoying a full range of activities will shortly be appearing on the website:

<https://www.thegrange.futureacademies.org/>

We have also just started a twitter account, which we will regularly update with information and insights into life at The Grange. The address is @TheGrangeFA if you would like to follow us.

Yours faithfully

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