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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that our students enjoyed the chance to press pause yesterday on what has been a very intense start to the new school year. When they reflect on all the new routines and ways of working they have adjusted to (we had our first 'wet break' and 'wet lunchtime' this week), as well as picking up on classroom learning and relationships with peers for the first time in six months, I hope that they will realise how much they have already achieved this term. Even more impressive is the fact that they have coped with all of this against a backdrop of increasing Covid anxiety across the country.

Cheshire West and Chester Public Health Letter

As a school we have this morning received a letter from the Director of Public Health in Cheshire West and Chester. It outlines the recommendation of some additional precautionary measures for schools in the Local Authority in light of the recent increase in Covid cases both nationally and locally. Also outlined are some ways of working which he recommends schools strongly consider. The majority of the recommendations are already part of our current 'Covid ways of working' but as a matter of urgency we will reflect on the others and I will update parents early next week with any planned changes to how we are operating.

Public Health England Letter

Please find attached a letter which schools have been asked by the national Department for Education to distribute to all parents regarding Covid-19 symptoms.

Uniform

A reminder that from Monday (28th September) full uniform should be worn by all students at all times, with PE kit and blazer worn on days in which students have a practical PE lesson. The current Department for Education guidance for schools states the following: *"Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal."*

School Gate Closure

Please note that from Monday the main gate into school from the Bus Park will close at 8.45am (the start of the school day) to encourage a punctual arrival at school by students. Until now we have been leaving this gate open for longer to enable students to adapt to returning to school and any new transport arrangements. Please be reassured that we will leave this gate open if we are aware that any of our school buses are running late.

Virtual Open Evening

In lieu of the necessary cancellation of this year's on-site Open Evening, please do follow our social media accounts and website (<https://www.helsbyhigh.org.uk/>) for details of our 'virtual' event at 5pm on Thursday 8th October. I am sure that students will be interested by the presence in school of a film crew in school all day next Tuesday filming footage for this event.

As mentioned above, I will be back in touch early next week and share with you both the described Cheshire West and Chester letter and our response to it. In the meantime I hope that all of our students and their families enjoy what is forecast to be a very pleasant and sunny weekend at the mid-point of this half-term.

Best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher