



Head Teacher:
Martin Hill B.Sc. Hons, NPQH
Chester Road, Helsby,
Frodsham WA6 0HY
Tel: 01928 723 551
Email: head@helsbyhigh.org.uk
www.helsbyhigh.org.uk

5 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable, if rather wet, weekend.

Face Coverings

Thank you very much for your support of our introduction of mandatory face covering wearing in corridors last week. Once again the maturity of our students in adapting to unusual ways of working was very evident, with nearly all students remembering to bring and wear their coverings. I know that some students who have asthma are worried about wearing coverings, but hopefully the following, from the asthma.uk organisation, provides some reassurance: *"Most people with asthma, even if it's severe, can manage to wear a face mask for a short period of time, and shouldn't worry if they need to wear one. Wearing a mask does not reduce a person's oxygen supply or cause a build-up of carbon dioxide. You may have read stories that say that it can, but this isn't true."* Please do though get in touch with the school if you wish to discuss your child's wearing of face coverings with us further.

PE Uniform

Thank you also for your support of our return to full uniform last week. Just a reminder that on days when students have practical PE lessons they should come to school in the correct PE kit, with their school blazer on top. This latter point is essential to ensure that students are appropriately dressed for their other four lessons that day.

Remote Learning

If you follow the local news then I'm sure you will have got a sense that we seem to be one of a minority of schools in the area who have yet to have a positive Covid test result within our school community. If we do then it is probably inevitable that some of our students will be asked to self-isolate and learn from home as a result of a confirmed case. In this event we will continue to provide 'remote learning' for students to undertake at home using Microsoft Teams. Hence it is essential that students ensure they are able to access Microsoft Teams and have any necessary passwords to hand at home.

If whole classes or year groups are asked to self-isolate then staff will be available at the normal lesson times to deliver lessons in 'real-time' which follow the usual timetable. A more complex scenario will be when lessons are continuing in school for most students but some are working from home as a result of self-isolation. In this event Microsoft Teams and ShowMyHomework will be used to provide learning activities that enable students at home to 'keep up' with their peers in school, although it won't be fully possible to provide 'real-time' lessons as staff will be in classrooms with students in school.

Marking of Student Work

We will continue to ask students to keep their exercise books with them at all times. This is for a number of reasons, not least so that they have them to hand if they are suddenly asked to self-isolate and work from home. Key assessments will be marked by staff though, either 'electronically', through submission of work and receipt of feedback via Microsoft Teams, or on paper. Thank you for your understanding that the return of assessed work on paper will be not be immediate due to guidance that paper should be left for 48 hours before being handled. This is another reason that marking exercise books is not really feasible at present - before they could be marked by staff they would probably be needed again by students in lessons.

Virtual Open Evening

A reminder that our 'Virtual Open Evening' takes place this Thursday at 5pm with the premiere of our new school film accompanied by the opportunity for a 'live chat' with senior members of staff between 5pm and 6pm. Please see our website (<https://www.helsbyhigh.org.uk/>) for more details, including our new digital prospectus.

Thank you for all your continued support as we continue working in different ways, trying to keep our school community safe and also provide the best possible education in order to ensure our students' ability to learn and achieve is unaffected by current circumstances. I hope you all have a good week and as always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can assist in any way or at any stage.

Best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher