



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

14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a school we are very appreciative of the very high levels of support which you are providing as we work together to try to support our students to re-build their lives after all the disruption and anxiety which has come their way in the last 15 months. That support has been very evident this week: thank you to Year 10 parents for their attendance and engagement with our first 'on-line' Parent Consultation Evenings this week; thank you to Year 11 and 13 parents for their continued support as those students complete their evidence bases for this summer's grades and thank you to all parents for supporting and encouraging students to follow all of the Covid control measures still required in schools.

It continues to be a very busy and demanding term, but one in which students are slowly getting back on track with their learning – in no small part due to the support, guidance and encouragement you provide. Thank you.

Updated DfE Guidance

Following the Prime Minister's announcement that the next stage of the 'roadmap' for lockdown-lifting will go ahead on Monday, the Department for Education have released updated operational guidance for schools, [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance)

There are relatively few changes to previous versions and so I'll just highlight the one key issue which you may very well already be aware of:

Face-Coverings: Students are no longer required to wear them in classrooms or corridors, but it is still recommended that staff continue to wear them in corridors (but not in classrooms). Hence from Monday, **students no longer have to wear face-coverings anywhere inside the school building.** Staff will continue to wear them in corridors, but do not have to in classrooms. Please note that any students who wish to continue wearing face-coverings in classrooms and/or corridors are free to do so.

I suspect the majority of students will be very pleased to no longer have to wear face-coverings in school, although they will still have to wear them on public or school transport. Please note that the Local Authority Public Health Team have the authority to re-instate their wearing at short notice should there be an increase in Covid prevalence in the area at any time.

Year 10 Parent Consultation Evenings

Our first 'virtual' Parent Consultation Evenings seemed to go well this week. Please do let us know if you have any feedback via consultationevening@helsbyhigh.org. I hope the evening provided reassurance and insight over progress for Year 10 students and their parents - and also guidance on how to maintain or improve upon their predicted grades over the next few months.

Year 11 and 13 Assessment Window

Students in Years 11 and 13 are now over halfway through their assessment window and continue to show impressive maturity as they navigate an unusual and unprecedented process. Given the importance of their assessments, please note that on the small number of occasions when the usual teacher is unavailable for a Year 11 or Year 13 lesson we will replace them with an experienced colleague from the same subject area, taking them out of their own classes if necessary. Thank you to parents of younger students for their understanding that this may lead to a slight rise in teacher 'absence' for their children's Key Stage 3 classes as a result. It will only be for the next two weeks and, given the very difficult circumstances that Year 11 and 13 students find themselves in, I am sure that parents will understand why we feel this is the right thing to do.

Measles/Chickenpox

Thank you for your understanding over last week's request that school is informed immediately if you suspect that your child might have measles or chickenpox. This is really important due to the fact that we currently have a student for whom contact with either of these viral infections could have very serious consequences.

I hope you all have a very pleasant weekend and that our students enjoy a chance for a well-deserved break after completing another week in a very busy half-term.

Very best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher