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16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Although it probably seems a little while ago now, I hope all of our students and families had a very pleasant half-term and enjoyed the sunny weather which accompanied the week. Last week certainly saw a very good start to this half-term, with students clearly enjoying being able to fully move around the building and use specialist classrooms for the first time in this academic year. They also responded very well to our request for improved standards of uniform and punctuality to accompany the return to more 'normal' ways of working. Thank you very much for the support you clearly provided as parents as we re-established our high expectations of students.

### **Face-Coverings**

After such a positive start to this half-term, it is therefore disappointing that I need to update you on the following. You may be aware that unfortunately Covid cases have risen significantly in the Local Authority over the last couple of weeks, due mainly to the prevalence of the Delta (formerly Indian) variant in the area. As a result of this, you may be aware that on Monday Cheshire West and Chester was designated 'Enhanced Support Package' status. As part of this development, the Local Authority's Director of Public Health has made it a requirement that schools re-instate the expectation that staff and students wear face-coverings at all times inside school buildings, including in classrooms (see attached letter, which was received on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June). I am sure that students will be disappointed that this is required, especially now the weather has become significantly warmer. I thank students in advance for the part they will now once again play in minimising virus transmission in schools by wearing coverings. Keeping prevalence of the virus amongst young people low is of course crucial to preventing large numbers of them having to self-isolate as a result of positive cases, causing further disruption to their learning and educational progress.

If there is to be a significant rise in Covid cases in the area then of course all of our current control measures - hand sanitisation in classrooms, cleaning of desks, etc - will be as important as ever and we will continue to implement them fully. With two year groups out of school however there is no overall increase in student movement in corridors since half-term and hence I do not envisage us having to return to the use of year group 'zones' in school this term.

Thank you for the on-going, and clearly still vital, use of regular Lateral Flow Device testing by students on Monday and Friday mornings. A reminder that we should be informed immediately of any positive test results via [contactportal@helsbyhigh.org](mailto:contactportal@helsbyhigh.org)

## Summer 2021 Grades

I can confirm, for the benefit of Year 11 and 13 students and parents, that we are ready to submit our 'Teacher-Assessed Grades' to the awarding bodies (the examination boards) by the deadline of this Friday. The appeals process for this summer was also confirmed last week by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and we will share this with students and parents ahead of the summer's results days.

## Progress and Pastoral Leaders

Please note that our year groups in school have now moved on to their new Progress and Pastoral Leaders, enabling Mrs Jones to work with Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. I hope the following is a useful summary of responsibilities in this area until the end of this term and informs parental contact with school where required:

Year	Progress and Pastoral Leader	Student Support Co-ordinator
7	Mrs Jones	Miss Terry
8	Mr Lawless	Mr Whitfield
9	Mr Lawless	Miss Gobin
10	Dr Ravetz	Mrs Wright

## Term Dates

A couple of reminders/updates for parents' diaries:

**This Term:** A reminder that this term finishes at 12.45pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Please note that all the usual bus services will run at this earlier time.

**2021-22:** Parents may be aware that there is an extra Bank Holiday in 2022 to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As this falls within the late-May half-term week, schools have been asked to reduce the overall number of days in school in 2021-22 (for both students and staff) by one. As placing this extra day alongside the half-term week is not possible due to likely GCSE/A-Level exams taking place then, we have instead decided to shorten the summer term by one day and so it will now finish on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 rather than on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. Please see [Holiday Dates - Helsby High School](#) for full details of next year's term dates.

Very best wishes,

Martin Hill  
Headteacher