



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been exceptionally impressed with the way that our Sixth Formers have approached school this term. Despite significant disruptions to their learning last year they have engaged with their work in a mature and productive way. Not only that, they have also embraced opportunities to continue to make a wider contribution to the school despite the restrictions in place.

As you know, we have been asking all members of the school community to wear a face covering as they move around the building and this is fully complied with by our sixth formers. The guidance to schools issued as a result of the new national restrictions that came into force today has reiterated the importance of wearing a mask when moving around the building in communal areas. We are also now **strongly recommending** that students wear a mask in all indoor communal areas when not in lessons. This would apply for example to the Common Room, 6th Form Cafe, Study Room and any other space where students may be sitting in close proximity to their peers and will not be seated in rows as happens in most classrooms. When not in lessons sixth form students are not supervised by staff but we will be reminding them of this strong recommendation whenever we can. The scientific evidence around the spread of infection due to aerosol transmission seems to be growing and so wearing a face covering should contribute towards keeping everyone in the school community safer. All students **must** wear a mask if they travel on the Consortium Bus at lunchtimes or on public transport.

We have been asking Sixth Form students to work from home when they do not have lessons on site. This will continue to be the case. With regard to **Year 13** Life Skills on a Friday morning, from 5th November to 2nd December 2020 we are going to permit Year 13 students who have sent off their UCAS form to study at home should they wish to do so.

Recent guidance issued to schools has strengthened the recommendation that we maximise ventilation. As I have said in previous communications, we are aware that this can make the school uncomfortably cold at times. There is unfortunately no obvious solution to this. When temperatures drop we are starting to close some of our external doors and windows and the heating remains on (which is of course quite wasteful, but does help to keep the temperature up). We are continuing to monitor this and talk to the students about how we can make things more comfortable. They obviously need to take the sensible step of wearing layers of warm clothes and staff will allow the

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



wearing of coats where absolutely necessary. Our priority is to keep the school open to all students and all our measures are designed to enable this to happen whilst keeping everyone safe.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding. We are very pleased that sixth form attendance has remained excellent. Please do ensure that you and your family self-isolate if anyone in your household shows Covid-19 symptoms (new and continuous cough, fever, loss of sense of taste or smell). Anyone with symptoms should ask for a test using the NHS portal: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. It is vital that students and households isolate in line with this guidance to reduce the spread of infection. School should be notified immediately if your child tests positive. I can also reassure you that all the Consortium schools work closely together and any cases at other sites are communicated to us and 'close contacts' are traced and informed as to whether they need to self-isolate.

Wishing you and your family the best of health,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher