

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support with the introduction of face coverings in school this week. All students and staff, unless exempt, have been wearing face masks in indoor communal areas such as corridors and dining halls since Monday. **It is important that students remember to bring and wear their face covering every day to school.** There is now a 50p charge for all face coverings issued to students. We appreciate that this is a change in culture for many students and have been delighted by the attitude and willingness to adapt by the majority of our young people.

### Rewarding students

We are always delighted to reward our students for their amazing work, effort in lessons and upholding our school values of **Aspiration, Kindness** and **Community**. Although we cannot currently hold our Fantastic Friday break treat time, there are still lots of ways we are praising our young people.

During the lockdown period, we were delighted by all the positive contributions lots of students made to their local communities and you may be aware we created a special student bulletin for them all to share their stories. If you feel you would like us to recognise your child for something special they are doing outside school please do not hesitate to contact their tutors to share the news with our team.

### Covid-19 - What will happen if there is a positive case reported in school?

In the event of a positive case being reported within our school community, an extensive plan is in place which has been written in line with guidance from Public Health England. This includes:

- Advising Cheshire West and Chester Protection Team
- Identifying close contacts. This information is gained from pinpointing classes affected from the previous 48 hours and crosschecking seating plans and class layouts.
- Contacting close contact parents by text and email. In this instance, there may be a possibility that you will need to come and collect your child from school at short notice. **Please ensure you have a contingency plan in place to collect your child should this happen.** Examples of 'close contacts' include:
  - close face to face contact (under 1 metre) for any length of time – including talking to them or coughing on them
  - being within 1 to 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes – including travelling in a small vehicle
- A letter explaining the isolation period and what to do will be emailed to parents and given to identified close contact students. At this stage no other students, staff, siblings and family members will need to self-isolate.

The plan will continue to be updated as guidance changes. The name student or staff member who has tested positive will remain confidential.

### **Covid-19 Testing / Track and Trace app**

Please continue to strictly follow the below government direction and keep school informed of any tests and results so that we can monitor any potential outbreaks. Guidance about when to you should book a coronavirus test can be found here. [Government guidance to parents and guardians](#). In addition to this please find attached a quick guide for parents and carers from Cheshire West and Chester about Covid-19 and the actions you can take.

### **Traffic – pick up/drop off at school**

Thank you to all those who have significantly helped to ease the congestion around the school and local community by following our previous guidance around travel to and from school. My colleagues provide support every day to ensure the safety of those in our school community. Unfortunately, I am still witnessing and having reports of drivers who are not being considerate around the way they are parking. Raby Park Road requires no one to be on the verge or parked up between the school and the junction to Chester High Road if we are to provide a smooth and safe flow of traffic. We are now on consultation with the police and highways to amend the yellow lines to support this position. Please can I ask that everyone uses the car parking facilities and not put the safety of our young people at risk by parking on Raby Park Road. Can I also remind all drivers that it is a 20mph limit outside of the school, particularly as we enter darker mornings/evenings. It is imperative that we stay below the designated limit.

### **Virtual Open Evening**

Last Thursday would have been our annual Open Evening. It is usually one of the highlights of our year and attended by over 800 families who are welcomed into the school building. Prospective families would normally attend presentations by senior staff in our assembly hall; have tours of the facilities led by our younger student guides and visit departments to see demonstrations, whilst having the opportunity to chat with staff and student ambassadors. In the current climate we have become adept at thinking outside the box and embracing 'new normal', finding ways to showcase our fantastic facilities and staff and students was a challenge but I believe that our virtual open evening gives a true flavour of what is special about Neston High school. Our virtual Open Evening videos can be viewed on our website along with a 3D walk through tour. [Virtual Open Evening 2020](#). Even though your family are already part of the Neston High community, I think that you will enjoy the videos especially the one entitled "what I love about NHS".

### **Information Evenings**

I hope that parents and carers from students in Years 7, 8 and 12 have found their virtual information evenings useful. The recorded evenings are still available to view online through the website on this link [Information Evenings](#). Information evenings for Years 10 and 11 will take place before half term and parents of those year groups will be contacted directly. Year 9 option evening will take place in December.

## Free school meals

Did you know that if you register for free school meals that your child's lunch account will be topped up with £2.50 every day for your child to purchase food from the school catering service? If your child is registered to receive free school meals they will also qualify for discounts on educational visits and will be placed on the priority list if they need a loan laptop.

Applying and checking eligibility is easy, just follow the link for more information and to access the online application form. [Free School Meals for Cheshire West Schools](#).

You will qualify if you are receiving one of the following benefits.

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

As always, stay safe and have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

K Simpson  
Headteacher