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14 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers



Principal: Mark J. Eager

Coronavirus Update: Tiers of Restriction

It has been a strange week but an extremely positive one with over 95% of students back in College. I have been delighted by the response from students adhering to our new normality. They have largely found their way around the one-way system and moved in a staggered way based on the numerous bells. In light of experience we have changed some routes to make it easier for students, increased signage around the site and more clearly marked entry and exit points to buildings. I am sure there will be further changes as we progress through the term.

One area for us to work on is to increase the number of students who can wear face coverings to do so. I will speak to all students this week on the topic but your support would much appreciated in reinforcing this message. I have also noted the number of students leaving the site at the end of the day. The large numbers can make social distancing difficult in nearby streets and therefore we are considering further staggering the number of students leaving at the end of the College day. However, I will be interested to see the impact of the Seminar Initiative which begins this week which will reduce the numbers leaving at 3pm with many leaving at 4pm. I will of course inform you of any changes prior to implementation.

With the government announcing the 'Rule of 6' last week several parents have asked if there any implications for the College. Thankfully schools are exempt from the rule however, it is timely to inform you of the implications for the College if Coronavirus increases within the community. The government have introduced '4 Tiers of Restriction' to contain the spread of the virus in communities. Currently there is no restriction placed on the College or Torbay. If, however, the College or Torbay moves to Tier 1 status and progresses through the tiers, the implications for the College are as follows:

Tier 1 - There is no change to the opening of the College for students. However, the wearing of face coverings will be mandatory for students and staff. **Currently we are the position of encouraging all to wear face coverings if they possibly can.*

Tier 2 – The College would move to a rota model with students attending on a two-week cycle. Two weeks in College and two weeks learning via our remote learning provision. Students deemed as vulnerable or with parents classified as keyworkers would attend full-time. The wearing of face coverings would continue to be mandatory.

Tier 3 – The College would be open for year groups identified by the government. All other year groups would continue with their learning via our remote learning provision. Students deemed as vulnerable or with parents classified as keyworkers would continue to attend full-time. The wearing of face coverings would continue to be mandatory.

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Tier 4 – The College would be open only for students deemed as vulnerable or with parents classified as keyworkers. All other students would continue their learning via our remote learning provision at home. The wearing of face coverings would continue to be mandatory.

Further information published by the government can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers>

The decision to implement a tier is not made by the College but rather by Public Health England, Local Authority or the national government depending on the circumstance. In such a situation a tier is implemented, it is likely to be with short notice and you will be informed by Groupcall in the first instance. Mr Townsend will write to all parents on Friday outlining the process for students accessing our remote learning provision if they are unable to attend the College due to coronavirus control restrictions.

I will endeavour to write again next week with an update for all parents.

As always thank you for your ongoing support in the challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M J Eager', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

M J Eager

Principal