

Headteacher's Blog 26th September – Ready, Respectful, Safe

Your child may have talked to you about how we are working on our routines and procedures through the mantra of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe'. The students have really bought into this and I want to update you as we move to the next step in this programme.

It has now been three weeks since we had the full return to school for our students. Of course, our schools were never really fully closed as, even through lockdown, we were open to our vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Now we have had the whole school in for a few weeks, we have been able to evaluate and tweak our school plans.

I have been extremely heartened by the way in which our young people and staff have risen to the challenge of being back in school. Students have been very sensible and mature in wearing their face coverings where applicable, regularly washing and sanitising their hands, maintaining social distancing and following staff instructions.

I wanted to let you know of a slight change from Monday 28th September. From this date, instead of students staying in one place for all of their lessons, they will be allowed to move to their next lesson and teachers will remain in their classrooms. All of our robust protective measures will further support this. Students will remain in their year group bubbles for lessons and will remain in their year groups for lunch and break times. The start and end of the school day will continue to be staggered, in terms of arrival zones at the start of the day and the timing of dismissal by year group, to ensure that contact remains at a minimal level. When moving to their lessons, it will be compulsory for all students to wear face coverings and to keep to our robust one way systems. It is worth noting that the official definition of contact, as defined by Public Health England, is being in contact for more than 15 minutes at 2 metres or 1 minute at 1 metre. Therefore, with the mitigation of face coverings when moving, there is minimal chance of students having contact when moving between lessons.

Ready for learning routine

To ensure that students and staff are ready for lessons to begin safely and respectfully, we will have the following enhanced routine from Monday:

- ✓ Students will move to lessons, wearing a face covering and observing the one way systems at all time – these are clearly indicated with arrows on the corridors.
- ✓ Students will arrive to lessons wearing their face covering and be greeted at the door by their teacher, who will also be wearing their face covering.
- ✓ Students will be asked to hand sanitise on entry to the classroom.
- ✓ Students will be asked to take a disinfectant wipe and wipe down their area (table/chair/equipment depending on room).
- ✓ Students can then take off their face covering.
- ✓ Staff will remain 2 metres from students at all times during the lesson.
- ✓ Students will stand behind chairs at the end of the lesson and put on their face coverings.
- ✓ Students will throw their wipes in the pedal bin on the way out.

Safe and respectful on buses

Please can I ask you to continue to support us and reinforce with your child that face coverings must be worn on buses. We are loading the buses carefully at the end of the day and students get onto buses with their face coverings on but they need to keep them on for the duration of the journey. Students also need to maintain the same high standards of behaviour on the buses that they have in lessons. Where inappropriate behaviour is reported, there will be sanctions applied.

Praising Perseverance

This half term we are focusing on the SPIRIT skill of perseverance. We are recognising those students who are really working hard to be the best they can be and demonstrating resilience to overcome barriers, whether these be learning or personal.

I am delighted to report that 25,000 praise points have been awarded already! There will be lots of prizes being awarded in the coming weeks for the many students who have really showed their perseverance.



Test and Trace

The NHS Test and Trace App is now live and we are encouraging students over 16 to download the app. We have also received the attached letter from NHS Test and Trace with information for parents and guardians:- <https://thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/LettersParents/2020-2021/2020.09-PHE letter to parents and guardians.pdf>

Wishing you a good weekend.

Ian Smith-Childs

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Headteacher