

SUNDAY 01 NOVEMBER 2020

BOURNE ACADEMY; SPALDING ACADEMY; GILES ACADEMY

DFE / GOVERNMENT UPDATE FOR PARENTS

Dear parents / carers; staff and students,

I wanted to write to you today, following the latest Government update on Saturday 31 October.

I apologise for the timing of this letter, being on a Sunday. However, we see it as being extremely important to get information shared in a prompt manner. We also wanted to confirm that we had already been planning over the half term break for some changes in our schools at this challenging time, in order to make sure we can keep as many students and staff safe and continuing to work and learn in our school environment as possible. The information from the Government on 31 October has only served to reinforce our plans.

The guidance for schools to be able to remain open still appears to be changing almost daily and as you will be aware, we are now seeing an increase of students testing positive for COVID-19 across all our schools, albeit very, very slight and we feel that it's time to make some amendments to our existing practice in order to meet the needs of increased protection for staff; students and parents, some of whom are vulnerable. Also, it is extremely important to keep all our parents / carers; staff and students fully updated in order to reassure you all as we approach start of Term 2.

In response to our own developing COVID-19 plans and the Government's new advice, please see the following:

- **Further National Lockdown:**

Although there is to be a further national lockdown from Thursday, which will last until 02 December 2020, schools are to remain open for all students.

- **Pupil Premium:**

Please contact the school for any advice regarding the Pupil Premium allowances if this guidance is needed by any of our parents / carers at this challenging time. Please remember that we are always here to support all our families.

- **Face Coverings:**

Please note that Headteachers still have discretion over whether to require the wearing of face masks.

Therefore, as we have seen an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 in all three of our schools, we will now be starting to encourage all students and all staff (both teaching and non-teaching staff) to start to wear face coverings (masks) from Monday 02 November, in the corridors and all Year Group yard areas.

**Please note that from Thursday 05 November in all of our schools, face coverings (masks) will become COMPULSORY for all students and all staff in all social, communal areas – including: when moving through the corridors; on the Year Group yards; in assemblies & in shared spaces - i.e. Sixth Form centre.**

Face coverings (masks) will still not be necessary in the classroom environment and for students will be a personal choice for now. Staff will be able to wear face shields, rather than masks, in the classrooms as a personal choice, which the school will continue to provide.

However, we do accept that some staff and students will be exempt, i.e. for medical reasons, from wearing a face covering (mask) and the school will work with these individuals to make the most appropriate arrangements over the next few days, prior to Thursday 05 November.

- **SLATrust Face Coverings:**

I am pleased to be able to share that in order to support our students and staff, we have already ordered and will be providing a mask with the SLATrust logo design for every staff member and student, which will become part of the school uniform. This is a gesture of goodwill and we also feel that it will allow us to maintain a school identity. However, if students choose to wear their own face covering (mask) this will also be fully permitted. If students choose to wear their own face covering, it must be a plain, neutral colour (such as navy; black or disposable masks) – with no novelty or brightly coloured masks allowed.

- **Setting of Student Work:**

We wrote to parents / carers and students towards the end of Term 1, to share that all lessons will be moving on-line from Monday 02 November. The plan for this will continue, with all work being set on Show My Homework, with this week's lessons being set on SMH as a classwork task for those absent students.

- **Staff Meetings:**

All wider Trust meetings will be moving to TEAMS, in order to reduce staff travelling across the Trust. More details for staff will follow on this, but I want to reassure parents that we are significantly changing our practices to further minimise any risk of COVID-19 transmission.

We know that you may find moving into a further national lockdown concerning, but we will continue to monitor the situation and are always working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

**The school will be open from 02 November & your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well**

**Please note that we encourage parents to monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19 and keep the school fully up to date with all test results whether positive or negative.**

**Symptoms:**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

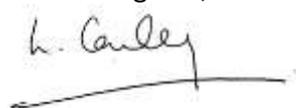
If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at

<https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Kindest regards,



Executive Headteacher SLATrust