



Dear Parents and Carers

Once again it has been a delight to see such positivity and enthusiasm from our students in school this week. We are all settling into a good routine and the students are showing maturity and understanding about the need for school to look and feel a bit different this year. By working together, it has allowed us to have a really good start to the academic year.

In current times, each week brings with it a range of new information we need to share with you and the students, and whilst some of these need immediate action, I aim to write to you each week with a summary of the information we think will be helpful for you to be aware of and we will do our best to keep you informed.

## **SIMS Parent**

Mr Chase wrote to you on Wednesday regarding access to SIMS Parent. Amongst its many benefits, the system allows schools to use an instant messaging service in order to communicate urgent information to parents.

In the event of us needing to contact you regarding any urgent matters, including COVID-19 related matters, we plan to use this instant messaging service in addition to email. This will allow us to ensure you receive such information quickly. If you have already signed up, please ensure that all the details that we hold are up-to-date.

## **Informing school about a positive case/close contact**

In the event of you needing to contact school about a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 for one of our students, it is crucial for us to know as soon as is possible. In this case, please could you email both your son's Head of Year and the main school office email ([pgsoffice@poolegrammar.com](mailto:pgsoffice@poolegrammar.com)) so that we can begin our COVID tracing procedures promptly. You will also need to complete the absence form on the school website: <https://www.poolegrammar.com/report-an-absence/>

## **NHS Test and Trace App**

This week NHS Test and Trace launched the NHS COVID-19 app to help to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It will do this by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action. The app is available to download on smartphones for anyone aged 16 or over and so any student over this age will be eligible to use the app and benefit from its features. A link to a fact sheet for parents and carers can be found here: <https://www.covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/parents-carers-over16s-factsheet.pdf>

## **Face coverings**

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child has a suitable face covering in school. The students have impressed us at school with their cooperation and understanding in this matter – it is notable. There are some occasions where a student has forgotten to bring a face covering to school and we please ask for your continued support in ensuring that he has a suitable face covering every day. We have a very limited stock of disposable masks but these are intended for use in emergencies such as when someone's mask breaks or is lost in the school day.

## **Lanyards**

You will be aware that we have introduced coloured lanyards for all year groups in the school. This has been of significant benefit to help ensure that the bubbles are kept at a safe distance from each other and is an important part of ensuring we have a COVID-safe environment. As with the face masks, we have been impressed by the fact that almost all of the student population are wearing their lanyards at all times. We understand that there may be odd occasions where students forget their lanyards, and we do loan out spares in this case, which we later quarantine when returned to us. However, if a student loses his lanyard this will need to be replaced at a cost of £2.50. You will receive a notification through ParentPay if this is the case. Students will also receive ID cards for their lanyards in school next week.



# HEADTEACHER'S BULLETIN

25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Buses

At the end of the school day we have a system of queuing students and boarding on the buses in their 'bubbles'. It is important that students in Years 7 to 11 do not board their bus straight away. They must wait in the marked zone designated to their year group and only board their bus when told to by a member of staff. Once on the bus it is crucial that they wear face coverings and remain in their bubbles. We ask your support in this by reminding them how crucial this is to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

From Monday 28 September 2020 routes 416 & 418 will pick students up from the turning circle near the school main gate; routes 447 & 450 will pick up students from the rear playground.

## Cycling into school

It has been good to see such large numbers of students cycling to school so far this term. Safety is absolutely paramount and so please can you ensure that if your child cycles to school, they are as visible as possible on their bikes with appropriate lighting for and where possible high visibility clothing/stickers/helmets. This will become increasingly important as the autumn progresses.

When arriving students must dismount from their bike at the school gates and wheel it to the bicycle racks. When leaving students must wheel their bike to the school gate and only mount it when off the school site.

Bike security is also vital so please ensure that your son has and uses a robust bike lock in order to make their bicycle secure at school.

## Lunch and break rotas

I wrote to you at the start of term to let you know that we were only able to accommodate one year group into the school canteen each day at break time, due to the social distancing measures we have in place. We have now managed to increase this to two sittings at break time each day as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	8	9	10	11
9	10	11	7	8

Please ensure that on days when a year group is not able to access the canteen at break time, that they come to school with a suitable snack. If we are able to add any year groups into this rota at a later date I will let you know. Please note that the sixth form have access to food every break time in the Ashley Thorne building.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy weekend.

Kind regards

Dr Amanda Smith  
Headteacher