



Traditional **Values**

Contemporary **Aspirations**

Creative **Curiosity**

ML.19.20.0205.SWR

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

As a school we are really looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back into the classroom after the summer, however we know many families have many questions in terms of attendance and will require knowledge of the new protocols in the Autumn Term.

### **The government guidance states:**

“Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.”

Below is further information and guidance for parents/carers, in relation to the attendance expectations and absence procedures for the new academic year 2020-21.

### **Mandatory attendance**

- From September, it will become a parent's duty to ensure that their child attends regularly, to the school where the child is a registered pupil, if they are of compulsory school age.
- It will be the responsibility of the school to record attendance and follow up any absences.
- The school will be able to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the schools attendance policy, should there be no authorised reason for absence.

### **Shielding**

We know that far fewer children and young adults will be advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are low, therefore, in the current situation, the majority of pupils will be able to return. We ask that you please let us know if your child falls into one of the following categories:

- Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1st August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission. This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. However, we are extremely sensitive to individual circumstances, so please get in touch with your child's Head of House or myself via email [keri.pearson@maletlambert.hull.sch.uk](mailto:keri.pearson@maletlambert.hull.sch.uk) to arrange a phone call, if you would like to discuss this in more detail. We will also send out a survey to all parents/carers in late August to gather additional information from you regarding this.
- If rates of transmission rise in the area, pupils and family members may be asked to shield again during the Autumn Term. Should this be the case, please inform me on the email address above.

- Some pupils no longer required to shield, but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school.

Where a pupil is unable to attend due to any of the above reasons because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, the school will offer them access to remote education. Engagement with remote education will be strictly monitored.

### **Self-Isolation and Testing**

Where a pupil is self-isolating because they have symptoms or have had a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has Covid 19, absence will not be penalised. Ensuring that pupils do not come into school if they have Covid 19 symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days is of the utmost importance. Therefore, a pupil should not be sent into school if they meet either of these criteria. If a pupil develops symptoms during the school day, they will be isolated and we will request that parents/carers collect them immediately.

As part of the NHS Test and Trace process, we have been asked to ensure that all parents/carers are aware of the need to book a test if you or anyone in your household develops symptoms and to follow self-isolation guidance. Following receipt of the test results, please inform school immediately of these results, positive or negative, so that we can advise of the next steps that you and the school need to take.

### **Pupils and families who are anxious about the re-opening of school**

As a school, we have full confidence in the measures we have put in place, as outlined in other communication from the Head of School and CEO. We are taking into consideration potential concerns of pupils, parents/carers and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and we will endeavour to put the right support in place to address this. As guidelines suggest this may include pupils who have been shielding themselves or shielding family members, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from COVID 19, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes. We recommend for families with concerns, that contact is made with their child's Head of House or myself to discuss this.

### **Contacting school when your child is absent from school**

Please continue to use the absence text line on 07860 055658 should your child be absent from school, clearly stating the reason why.

If your child is absent due to illness, please be specific about their illness in your communication and if your child is displaying any of the COVID 19 symptoms, you must state this when you contact the school as well as when your child started with symptoms. As a school, we are responsible for liaising with Public Health England for any confirmed cases within the school population, therefore communication between parents/carers and school is vital in reducing transmission.

A reminder of the symptoms

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or your child have any concerns, questions regarding attendance for the upcoming academic year, then please do get in touch with the school.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keri Pearson', written in a cursive style.

Keri Pearson  
Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion