

SJO/AT

3rd November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to thank all of you for your continued and continuing support in these ever-changing times. It is greatly appreciated.

I write to you in anticipation of impending national lockdown restrictions, and to update you about our intentions and ongoing management of the situation in school.

All schools nationally will remain open to students during the lockdown period. This is set to run from the 5th November to 2nd December. With effect from Thursday 5th November we will be introducing some restrictions in school, and reinforcing some of the expectations we have already in place.

Firstly, it will become an expectation that all students wear a face covering in corridors and common areas. Staff already comply with this rule. The DfE advise that face coverings are not necessary in lessons as students are grouped in year group 'bubbles' and sit facing the front of the classrooms. Students may remove face coverings once they are seated in class, or in the refectory/Ndeeba room to eat. If there are reasons for exemption from this policy, the appropriate Head of Year should be informed. The risk of transmission of the virus is greater now than in the summer, so everyone must play their part in controlling further infection. I therefore seek your support in ensuring that your children bring and wear a suitable face covering in school from the 5th November onwards.

Secondly, the rooms and buildings must be ventilated at all times. As the weather becomes less clement students may wear their coats in classrooms to ameliorate against the additional impact on room temperature which may be caused by the need to keep windows and doors open to ventilate the rooms. This is not a dilution of our high expectations, rather a practical response to circumstance. We still expect the correct uniform (or approved PE/Dance kit as appropriate) to be worn at all times.

Thirdly, as the need to self-isolate is becoming more prevalent, I am pleased to let you know that families will still receive their Free School Meals entitlement, during their isolation, where appropriate. We are currently in negotiation with the Dartmoor MAT about the practicalities of food versus vouchers, but families need have no worries about their free meal's entitlement.

Finally, any child who is self-isolating will be able to continue with remote learning. If you have limited access to IT and feel that this is likely to prohibit your child's ability to engage with online learning during enforced isolation please contact Laura Roper (l.roper@tavistockcollege.org) as soon as is convenient as we have a limited amount of hardware available (chrome books, dongles etc) to plug these gaps.

Please be assured that Tavistock College is following all of the guidance provided by Public Health England and the Department for Education to keep your children safe. Once again, thank you in anticipation for your support. I will, of course, continue to provide updated information should circumstances alter.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Jones
Principal

Together; we care, we challenge, we excel