



# Leventhorpe

a business and enterprise academy

10 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carer,

We are approaching the end of the second week of term and I wanted to update you on how we are adapting to the new systems with all of the students back on site. The big picture is that things have gone very well in terms of the students understanding new expectations. The behaviour of students around the site has been excellent and it is fantastic to see busy and productive classrooms as lessons are delivered. Teachers are commenting on how fantastic it is to be teaching face-to-face again and how well the students have adjusted to all of the changes. I would like to thank our students for their maturity and co-operation as we have started this term. I would also like to thank parents for your support from home and for all the changes you have had to make as we have returned to school with very different routines.

There have been some issues as we have started term and we have been making adaptations to try to improve the experience of students within the constraints we face.

In terms of our catering offer, we know that queues have been long in some areas as students have got used to the new systems. We have made changes to the volume of choices and we have moved some bubble areas around to try to speed up service times. We have seen a significant improvement since the start of term and things are improving day by day.

We are aware that some bubbles are inside for break and lunch and it would be good to give these students more opportunities to be outside during breaks. We are looking at how we can achieve this whilst balancing our other priorities.

We experienced some days where parking at the end of the day caused traffic problems along Cambridge Road and delays for parents leaving the site. Our capacity is limited and we encourage parents to find alternatives to driving to the site at the end of school. I have had communication from the pre-school at the Bullfields Centre to ask if I could politely ask parents from Leventhorpe to not park in the Bullfields Centre car park, as space is needed for the pick up of the children at the pre-school. They are the tenants of the centre and the facilities there are for their use only, so could parents please not use their car park or the toilets. Thank you for your ongoing support with the parking issue.

We will be launching our new website next Monday, which will improve website functionality and the presentation of materials. There is still a need to update some areas and improve the flow of information to you as parents. We hope you will notice some positive changes to communications over the coming months.

Open Evening for Year 7 2021 entry has been cancelled due to Covid. This means that school will not finish any earlier on Thursday 17 September. Friday 18 September is still an INSET day, so students will not be in school. We will be making information available for prospective parents on the new website from Monday 21 September.

We are also changing our guidance on the use of face coverings in school. This issue is explained below.

Thank you for the supportive messages and your understanding as we have resumed on-site provision for your children.

Malcolm White

### Face Coverings

**From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September students will need to have a face covering for use in the school day.**

Due to changes in the national guidance coming into effect on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the school have taken the step to require students and staff to wear face coverings where social distancing between different year group bubbles is difficult. You will be aware that there is an increase in reported Covid cases and this increase is being seen in particular age groups with young people seeing a noticeable increase. As a school we feel we need to add an extra mitigation of risk when students are on-site and we feel we have a role in educating students to be more aware of current risks and the habits they need to embed during this stage of the pandemic.

In addition, we ask that any parents collecting students at the end of the day should wear a face covering whilst on school premises (not necessary in cars), and when around students as you leave the site.

#### **Where exactly will my child need to wear it in school?**

- If your child travels to and from school by one of our dedicated school buses, or a public bus service. Face coverings must be worn whilst on the buses.
- When students arrive on site they should wear a face covering until they enter their Period 1 classroom or bubble area.
- They will need to wear face coverings when they move between lessons. The face covering should be put on before they leave a classroom, and taken off when they arrive in their next classroom, or their bubble area for break or lunch.
- When they leave the school site at the end of the day, face coverings should be worn until they are well away from the school site and they are not mixing with students in other year groups.
- They **won't** need to wear a face covering in their classrooms or when they are in their bubble areas for break and lunch.

#### **What will my child need?**

Your child needs to come to school with:

- A **face covering**. We'd recommend a reusable one so that they can use it more than once, as they will need to take it on and off several times during the school day. If this isn't an option, they'll need to bring in several single-use face coverings each day.
- A **sealable plastic bag** to keep their face covering in when they're not using it so that it doesn't contaminate (or get contaminated by) other surfaces in school.

### **Where can I get a face covering?**

- Reusable and single-use face coverings are available to buy in shops or online
- The following link has instructions from the government on how to make a cloth face covering  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

### **How should my child use their face covering?**

- Watch from the World Health Organisation with your child so they know how to wear their face covering safely.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN\\_WTk&safe=active](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk&safe=active)
- Their face covering needs to cover their nose and mouth when they're wearing it.
- They shouldn't touch the front of the face covering or the part that's touched their mouth or nose.
- They should sanitise before and after touching the face covering, including to take it off or put it on. They should store it in an individual, sealable plastic bag between uses.
- If it becomes damp, they shouldn't wear it, and they should replace it carefully.
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of after use in a lidded bin.

### **How often will it need to be washed?**

- Reusable face coverings will need to be washed at the end of each day, ready for your child to wear the next day
- You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry – follow the washing instructions for the fabric and use normal detergent

### **What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?**

- They won't need to wear one in school
- Please let us know by contacting Ms Price on lep@leventhorpe.net if your child is exempt so that we don't ask them to wear a face covering.

List of exemptions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#when-you-do-not-need-to-wear-a-face-covering>

### **What if my child forgets their face covering?**

- We'll have a small supply of spares available at school available from the Medical Room at Student Services.
- To be safe in the knowledge that everyone has one, please make sure your child has their own so that we can keep our supply of spares for emergencies