

Dear parents,

I hope you and your families have been able to have a restful half term break, though I know several of you have had children who have been unwell and tested positive for Covid so I wish you all well.

Following my letter at the end of term, this is a firstly a reminder that from Monday we return to requiring face masks to be worn in communal areas, corridors and at the canteen (unless exempt) as well as sanitising hands on the way in and out of the school gates, in addition to in and out of lessons. Students should also be wearing masks while travelling to school on public transport or in shared transport (buses, taxis and cars).

Furthermore, as a school community over half term there have been a high number of students and staff who have tested positive for Covid-19. As a result, we will also be returning to ensuring windows in classrooms remain open and allowing students to wear their coats in classrooms to keep warm. Teachers will return to remaining distanced from students at the front of the classroom and we advise all staff and students (unless exempt) to wear their masks in classrooms as well.

Thank you to those of you who have kept us informed as your children have received positive LFT and PCR results. As per my text message, between now and Monday, please continue to inform us via replying to the text message or emailing head@smithdonhigh.org.uk. From Monday morning, please return to informing us via the attendance email, text or telephone numbers (at the end of this letter), including the last day of isolation according to NHS Track and Trace and the expected return to school date, provided your child is well.

Following Government advice, we also ask that if your child has remained well and will be returning to school as normal on Monday 1 November, please complete an LFT test on Sunday evening or Monday morning before their return, to ensure they are free of Covid on return.

Yr7-10:

If your child is completing a period of isolation but is well enough to study, they should use Google Classroom to monitor for any work set for them, but focus their time on MyMaths or Hegarty Maths tasks (as appropriate), Educake tasks and for Years 7-9 continue to practise and learn key information from their Knowledge Organisers, as well as take one hour per day to complete private reading.

Yr11:

Year 11 PPEs will be continuing as planned from Monday morning. Students are advised to wear their masks in the Sports Hall, though will be safely distanced, should they wish to remove them once seated; however students with 1-2-1 support (scribe/reader) are required to wear masks throughout the exam.

If your child is completing a period of isolation but is well enough to study, they should continue to revise for all their exams and monitor Google Classroom for any work set for them - exams missed during isolation will be rescheduled to catch up on their return.

Thank you, as ever, for your support in encouraging your child to wear their mask, take regular LFTs and socially distance as much as they can, while we endeavour to ensure the children's education and school experience is affected as little as possible, while protecting our school and local community.

Best wishes,

Amanda Gibbins

Mrs A Gibbins

Attendance contacts:

attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk

01485 536123 (tel)

07935 059774 (text)