

# Parents' Newsletter 20/21



## Edition 3

Monday 23 November 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to our third newsletter of the academic year. Over the last few weeks, we have all been facing the challenge of the latest, national lockdown in England, together with a rise in coronavirus cases across the local area. Despite all of the restrictions on everyday life, I hope that you and your families are managing to keep well during these uncertain times.

Thank you so much for the support you continue to give us here at Caedmon College and Whitby Sixth Form. At the time of writing, we have only had to deal with four cases of covid-19 illness that have required us to take action in school. After careful investigation in school, and detailed discussions with experts at Public Health England, in each of the cases to date, we have had to ask a small number of students to self-isolate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families concerned for the manner in which they have cooperated with us with regard to these matters.

If your child is feeling unwell overnight, or in the morning before setting off to school, please do not send them in immediately and instead contact our Attendance line for advice and further information. Their symptoms may or may not be those of Covid-19 but we would prefer that you err on the side of caution. Of course, at this time of year, it can be difficult to distinguish between different illnesses. This and other issues are covered in four recent communications from NYCC that we have been asked to share with you and which are attached to this newsletter.

### Face coverings

Thank you for your ongoing help to ensure that your son/daughter arrives at school each day with a face mask that they can wear in our communal areas. When I last wrote to you in mid-October, we were just on the point of recommending their use in corridors and other communal areas. Recent changes in the law accompanying the latest national lockdown measures in England mean that wearing a facial covering in indoor communal areas in secondary schools is now mandatory. This is beginning to become 'second nature' for students as they leave a classroom and our teaching staff are routinely reminding them to don a face mask at the end of each lesson. Your help in reinforcing this message would be greatly appreciated.

### Classroom ventilation and school uniform

As we move into the winter months, maintaining a good circulation of fresh air inside classrooms and communal spaces is recognised as being one of the ways in which we can further reduce the transmission of the coronavirus. Inevitably this will lower the temperature inside classrooms. Recognising that students may well feel colder, we are relaxing our uniform requirements over the winter to allow students to wear either a CCW branded jumper or a plain black sweatshirt underneath their blazer. This relaxation of our uniform code does not extend to hoodies or tops with logos on. We have looked at different suppliers and if there is sufficient demand, we would be happy to place a bulk order on some plain black 'Fruit of the Loom' sweatshirts that we hope to source for about £6 each. If you are interested in purchasing one or more sweatshirts, we will send out a separate communication about this in the next few days.

On the issue of school uniform, our heads of year – Ms Fleetwood, Ms Charters, Ms Ruberry and Mrs Gordon – have asked me to point out that many of the girls are wearing skirts that are far too short. Can I once again ask you to please ensure that your daughter is wearing the correct skirt length, as specified in our uniform code, in College.

### Whitby Sixth Form Open Evening

The ongoing public health situation has meant that we have not been able to hold an open evening on the Whitby Sixth Form site this autumn. Instead, we have posted our prospectus to all students in Year 11 and invited them and their parents to an online presentation about the courses we offer, as well as academic and pastoral support programmes we provide for our sixth form students. If you are interested in finding out more about Whitby Sixth Form, please visit our dedicated Open Evening website page at <http://sixthformwhitby.org/news/sixth-form-open-evening/> where you can find out more detailed information about all of our courses and make an application to begin Post

16 studies with us in September 2021. Once the current national lockdown restrictions are lifted, we will resume individual tours of the site for Year 10 and 11 students and their parents. Please contact us using [enquiries@sixthformwhitby.org](mailto:enquiries@sixthformwhitby.org) to arrange a visit.

## **Year 11 Mock Exams**

I am sure that you will join me in wishing our Year 11 students every success in their forthcoming GCSE trial examinations that begin on Monday 30 November and finish on Tuesday 8 December. This will be an intensive period for our students and will be their first chance to experience proper examination conditions in preparation for the examinations planned for June 2021. At time of writing, despite announcements to changes in assessment at age 16 in both Scotland and Wales, the Department for Education in England is still asking schools to prepare for a full suite of GCSE, A-level and other examinations next summer. Apart from the first GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics papers in the last week in May, the start of this examination season has been moved from the usual time in mid-May to the start of June. Despite criticism of these proposals and speculation about how they may, in time, need to change, we have to plan our year assuming that our GCSE and A-level students will be required to sit the full set of examination papers in the summer.

## **Parents Evenings**

Thank you to all Year 11 parents who booked phone calls before half term in lieu of the calendared parents' evening that we could not run in its usual form. Feedback has been very positive about this, with parents really valuing the opportunity to have an in-depth conversation about their child's progress with one of our teachers. For the foreseeable future, all of our parents' consultation evenings will be running along similar lines. Although the exact dates may be subject to change, below is a revised calendar showing the weeks that we intend to contact the parents of students in different year groups.

- Year 7 - week beginning Monday 15 March 2021
- Year 8 - week beginning Monday 1 March 2021
- Year 9 - week beginning Monday 9 December 2021
- Year 10 - week beginning Monday 25 March 2021
- Year 11 - week beginning Monday 25 January 2021
- Post 16 - weeks beginning Monday 1 February 2021 and Monday 26 March 2021.

Parents of students in Years 8 and 9 should also be aware that in late January/early February we will be sharing some key information about the 'Year 9 Choices' and 'KS4 Options' that students in these year groups will need to make about the subjects they will specialise in next year. As it is likely that social distancing measures will still be in place, we will send home information booklets to help your child with their decisions and invite you along to an online presentation that will explain in more detail some of the features of our Year 9 and KS4 curriculum offer. The provisional dates for these online presentations are:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 8 into 9 Choices      | Wednesday 10 February |
| Year 9 into 10 KS4 Options | Thursday 11 February  |

We will write to parents in the New Year to confirm times/dates and provide you with more detailed information about the process.

## **Dropping off students in the morning/collecting students from College**

As you will be aware, access to the main Normanby site is very tight and constricted. Therefore, we ask that parents please do not come down the College driveway in vehicles to drop off or pick up your son or daughter, unless you have made prior arrangements to do so because of medical or other circumstances.

As the weather has turned this autumn and our fields have become too wet for use by students at lunchtime, we have created additional hard-standing areas for students to use by sectioning off one of our car parks. This is inevitably putting even more pressure on the car parking spaces at the top of our drive, which in turn further limits the spaces we have for parental drop-offs and pickups. Therefore, if at all possible, please can you delay picking up your son or daughter from the College until 3.35pm or 3.40pm, by which time most of our students have safely walked off site and the school taxis should also have departed.

Finally, being mindful of Beevers furniture shop and the residents of Stakesby Vale, can I ask that you do not park in this area whilst waiting for school to finish. This is causing significant disruption to our neighbours.

Once again, thank you in anticipation of your help with these matters.

### **School transport**

Can I remind you that face coverings continue to be compulsory for those students who travel into school on the train and inform you that, during this period of national lockdown in England, facial coverings have also become compulsory on our dedicated school buses.

### **PHSE lessons**

Our PHSE programme is being organised in a different way this year. The usual timetable is suspended for one period each week - this week it will be Wednesday Period 1; next week Wednesday Period 2, etc – which will roll through the timetable over the course of the year. With everyone focusing on PHSE at the same time, it will be easier for staff to deliver dedicated sessions and, in time, for us to welcome in guest speakers on a more regular basis to enhance our teaching. If you would like more information about this programme, please contact Mr Graham by emailing him via [s.graham@ccwhitby.org](mailto:s.graham@ccwhitby.org).

Students at Whitby Sixth Form will be expected to attend the College, regardless of whether or not they have timetabled lessons during each week's designated lesson, in order to participate in a programme of guidance and careers activities.

### **Finally ...**

A reminder that the College is closed to students this Friday.

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| <b>School Closure Day – Friday 27 November</b> |
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Thank you for your continuing support

Yours faithfully

*Simon Riley*

Simon Riley  
Principal

## **Coronavirus – infection rates rising sharply in the Scarborough area**

Over the last 7 days, the number of Covid-19 cases in the borough of Scarborough has doubled and is rising rapidly.

In order to prevent a rise in other areas and support communities it is everyone's responsibility to protect each other and help bring down the rates of infection.

**Whilst not in an education setting, it is essential that you and those you live with follow the national restrictions and stay at home:**

- **Only leave home for food, medical reasons, exercise, education or work**
- **Do not meet up with other households, even outdoors, except for the exceptions set out in the national guidance: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)**
- **If you have symptoms you must self-isolate and get a test – it is the law**
- **Avoid all travel unless essential**
- **Remember to wash hands, cover face, make space**
- **Remember that school bubbles do not apply outside school**

Additional testing sites will be launched throughout Scarborough borough this month and testing sites are available across the county. We are asking visitors not to visit Scarborough at the moment. We encourage everyone to stay at home and exercise in their own local area.

**If you are self-isolating and don't have anyone who can help you with shopping and other essentials, call 01609 780780 any day between 8am and 5.30pm and you will be directed to local support that is right for you.**

If you have to self-isolate and cannot work from home, you may be eligible for a Test and Trace support payment. Refer to 'support for you' at [www.scarborough.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.scarborough.gov.uk/coronavirus) for more information. If you do not have access to online services, call 01723 232372.

We know we can count on your support and thank you for your cooperation

## **What happens if there is a case of coronavirus at your child's school?**

*Schools have very thorough measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. These measures have worked well and manage to successfully limit the further spread of coronavirus in schools in North Yorkshire.*

*We have put together a guide to show what happens when a case of coronavirus is suspected;*

### **If your child starts to show symptoms of covid 19 whilst they are in school this is what schools will do;**

- ◆ Call you as parents/carers to collect your child and take them home. They will advise you that all household members will need to isolate from that point and that you should book a test for your child.
- ◆ While your child is waiting to be collected they will be in an isolated room with a window open for ventilation. If the school do not have a room for this they will ensure that your child waits in an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
- ◆ Staff caring for your child during this time will try to maintain 2 metre distancing. If this is not possible, for example with a young child, they will wear appropriate PPE – this is likely to be an apron, face mask and gloves.
- ◆ Your child's school will ask you to keep them informed of the test result so that if the result is positive they can take steps to help keep others safe.

### **If there is a positive case of covid 19 in your child's school the following will happen;**

- ◆ The headteacher will notify the national and local public health team.
- ◆ All close contacts of the positive case will be identified and asked to self-isolate – a standard letter from your school will be sent to all close contacts, containing all the information they need to understand what they and their household should do.
- ◆ In some circumstances a school may initially need to ask a larger number of students to self-isolate as a precaution, whilst they work with public health to confirm all of the close contacts. Once this has been confirmed some students may be able to return to school.

## Decisions on identifying close contacts and closing classes/year groups/whole schools;

- ◆ Every case that occurs in schools is different and the headteacher will work closely with public health to make sure they have identified all possible close contacts of a positive case within the guidance given.
- ◆ Because each case is looked at individually, you can be sure that children and staff are not asked to self-isolate without a good reason. The number of people classed as 'close contacts' of a positive case will be different for every case dependent on the activities of the person who has tested positive in the 48 hours prior to symptoms starting.
- ◆ In some circumstances schools may need to close classes, year groups or, in extreme cases, the whole school because of a lack of appropriate staff or other organisational reasons.

# Should I send my child to school with cold type symptoms?

**Do not send your child to their nursery, childminder, school or college if they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms:**

- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **Or 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)
- **Or 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
- **OR someone in their household is showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms**



Children with simple cold symptoms such as runny noses or sore throats without fever who would normally have attended schools in other times should not be tested for COVID-19 and can still go to school if not unwell.

Arrange a test only if you or your child or member of your household develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. Inform your nursery, childminder, school or college of the results.

**For advice about other conditions that may mean your child needs to stay off school see [here](#).**

**If you are worried that your child is unwell use 111. [nhs.uk](#) or call 111 or contact your GP.**

**Additional advice to know if your child is unwell is [here](#).**

**STAY SAFE**  
IN NORTH YORKSHIRE



## Emollients - Information for Schools – October 2020

The Covid-19 guidance advises that enhanced hand hygiene, washing our hands more frequently, is one of the main ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19 – ‘hands, face, space’. However, frequent handwashing can cause dry and irritated skin – contact irritant dermatitis. If a child suffers from contact irritant dermatitis due to handwashing they may need an emollient (moisturiser).

Emollients are not classed as medicines, and as such, schools should not consider them as part of the ‘Medicines in schools’ policy. Emollients (moisturisers), when used for dry, irritated skin on hands due to enhanced hand hygiene measures do not need to be prescribed by a doctor/General Practice. Emollients are readily available, to purchase, in supermarkets and community pharmacies.

Parents/guardians should be advised to purchase a suitable product, as detailed in the parent/guardian information leaflet.

Parents/guardians should purchase a small tube of suitable emollient, 50g-150g in size. Pots and tubs are not suitable for school due to the risk of contamination.

Parents/guardians should advise the child of the quantity of emollient to apply – see parent/guardian information leaflet.

The child should keep their emollient in their draw/tray/school bag, as appropriate.

The emollient should be applied as often as possible after handwashing – see parent/guardian leaflet for full advice.

Children should apply their own emollient, where possible. Children in Year 1 and Reception may need *supervision* in applying but still should be expected to apply themselves. If a child is unable to apply the emollient themselves, due to additional needs, this should be noted in their healthcare plan. Young children attending a pre-school setting and requiring emollient applying would fall under the same procedures used within the setting to administer sunscreen; it would be expected that these procedures form part of the setting’s standard operating risk assessments.

Schools should ask the parent/guardian to sign a consent form to allow their child to bring an emollient to school – see suggested consent form. The consent form includes the need for the emollient to be used ‘sensibly’ and the right for the school to confiscate the emollient if the child uses it inappropriately. The school should discuss the reason for confiscation with the parent/guardian and decide if it is appropriate for the child to have an emollient in school.

Emollients do carry a fire risk and parents/guardians should be made aware of this – by signposting them to the parent/guardian leaflet – but this is not considered to be

high risk in a school setting, no more than the fire risk associated with alcohol hand-gels.

This advice does not apply to chronic/long-term dry skin conditions, for example, atopic eczema and psoriasis, where the child's condition should be under the care of the GP and may require stronger products that must be prescribed.

Parents/guardians should be directed to their local community pharmacy for further advice on emollients/contact irritant dermatitis if needed.