



Tuesday 3 November 2020

Dear Parent

November Latest – Update 4

Welcome to the second half term of this academic year. I hope that you and your family found time to enjoy last week's break, with students returning refreshed and ready for the half term ahead.

September and October saw Caister students consistently demonstrating our core values of ambition, opportunity, character and community. It was fantastic to see students receiving formal recognition in assemblies before the break; for their effort in lessons, commitment to after school clubs and support for their staff, who have worked especially hard throughout the last two months.

As we prepare for what we expect to be another successful half term, I am writing to update you on some of the measures we are taking to continue providing the highest quality of education for your child, whilst keeping students and staff safe.

Face Coverings

You will have noted from my letter of 1 September (September Reopening – Update 2), that we needed to remain ready to wear face coverings in school at any time.

In line with Government guidance, from Thursday, we will expect students and staff to wear face coverings when moving around the site and in communal areas where social distancing is not possible. Therefore, please ensure your child comes to school on Thursday with their own face covering.

Further detail on this can be found in the enclosed Face Coverings Guidance document, under the section '**Guidance in the case of local or national lockdown**'. It is also worth reading the 'Further Stipulations' section for guidance on exemptions and the type of face covering to be worn.

In form time on Wednesday and Thursday, students will be given full details of exactly when they should wear their face coverings. They will also be reminded of the correct way to remove and store their face coverings when they are not required.

First Bus Additional Service - 908

Through working with First Bus, we have been able to agree a third student only (number 908) bus on the after school North Caister to Great Yarmouth route. First Bus are constrained by other services, but we are grateful that in addition to the 908s leaving North Caister at 3.08pm and 4.13pm, there will now be a 3.45pm service. This additional capacity, combined with the public (number 8) buses leaving every 13, 28, 43 and 58 minutes past the hour, should reduce the time that students have to wait for transport after school.

Students will be informed of these times and the nearest bus stop locations during form time this week. This will also be an opportunity to reinforce the high standards of conduct we expect Caister students to model in the community, especially when travelling to and from school on public transport.

We will also be reminding students of the expectation that they wear a face covering when using public transport, and to act responsibly with regard to social distancing from peers outside of their year group when travelling to and from school.

Attendance

We were relieved to hear on Saturday evening, that despite the country entering a national lockdown, schools would remain open. We firmly believe this is the best option for our young people and they are best served by remaining in education and attending school as much as possible.

The exception to this is of course if your child is ill, or needs to self-isolate. Government guidance remains that if your child or someone in your household is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or has tested positive for coronavirus in the last 10 days, your child should not attend school. Members of the same household should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. In addition, if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, they should self-isolate for 14 days from that contact point.

The symptoms are currently listed as;

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough,
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

In these cases, please report your child's absence in the normal way but make clear their symptoms or reasons when you contact us. If your child becomes ill whilst in school, we will contact you, arrange for them to be sent home and advise you on next steps.

For any further guidance or support with attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Neave, Attendance & Welfare Officer at claire.neave@caisteracademy.org.uk.

Remote Learning

For those students asked to self-isolate, there is now an expectation that they follow their normal timetable from home. Students are being shown how to access their classwork through Microsoft Teams in school. Where possible, we would advise parents to also check they can do this at home, before potentially self-isolating.

Mrs McMillan, Assistant Principal for Teaching & Learning has written to you separately on this. However, these new systems can at times be daunting for those of us who are less technologically minded, so please do not hesitate to contact us through your child's Head of Year, if you would like any additional support. There is also a Remote Learning section on the website with further guidance.

For those parents finding themselves in a position to have to support home learning in the next few weeks, thank you for your perseverance.

Review

The last half term has been a learning experience for us all. I am delighted that as a community our attitude has been to embrace change, overcome challenges and keep moving forward. To continue doing this, we are regularly reviewing our practice and seeking to develop our systems, so that as well as keeping students and staff safe, we can maintain the highest quality of education for our young people.

Student engagement and parental support is an essential part of this. Some students have been involved in workshops with our architects, Walters & Cohen, and all students have been invited to apply for the Academy Council. I look forward to our student voice having a raised profile, and hearing students' ideas for continued development. In addition, I would encourage that if you have queries or suggestions, they are shared through your child's Head of Year, so that we can consider them as part of our ongoing review process. Your contribution to your child's wellbeing and success is valued.

I wish you and your family a positive start to this new half term.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Driver
Principal

Enclosed:

- Face Coverings Guidance

Face Coverings Guidance

The following guidance has been compiled following direction from the Department for Education (Face coverings in education) and Creative Education Trust (Advice to school leaders regarding face coverings 26 August). It will be reviewed on a weekly basis and may change at any time.

Standard Guidance (outside of local lockdown):

- Face coverings **may be worn** by staff and students, when moving around the site and in communal areas.
- Face coverings are **not recommended in classrooms during lesson time.**⁽¹⁾ However:
 - If students feel more comfortable wearing a face covering in lessons their parents may request this through their Head of Year. Requests will be logged on Go4schools so staff are aware.
 - If staff choose to wear a face covering it is at their discretion.
- Face coverings **should be worn by visitors** to the academy, when moving around the site, and in communal areas where social distancing is not possible.

Guidance in the case of local lockdown (if the area is designated for 'national government intervention') or at the Principal's discretion:

- Face coverings **should be worn** by staff⁽²⁾ and students, **when moving around the site**, and in communal areas where social distancing is not possible.
- Face coverings are **not recommended in classrooms during lesson time.**⁽¹⁾ However:
 - If students feel more comfortable wearing a face covering in lessons their parents may request this through their Head of Year. Requests will be logged on Go4Schools so staff are aware.
 - If staff choose to wear a face covering it is at their discretion.
- Face coverings **should be worn by visitors** to the academy, when moving around the site, and in communal areas where social distancing is not possible.

Further Stipulations:

- It is the responsibility of staff and students to provide their own face coverings.
- Face coverings may be plain or patterned, without obvious motifs or branding.
- Face coverings should be kept in a resealable plastic bag when not being worn.
- **Due to the short notice provided in the event of a local lockdown:**
 - **It is recommended that staff and students have a face covering and resealable plastic bag ready at home.**
 - Exemptions to the wearing of face coverings should be declared as soon as possible:
 - Student exemptions should be declared by parents to their child's Head of Year. These will be logged on Go4Schools.
 - Staff exemptions should be declared to the HR & Business Support Officer.

- Training on the correct application, wearing and removal of face coverings will be given during student induction assemblies. This guidance must be followed by students wearing face coverings.
- In the event of emergencies, anyone given a face covering by Caister Academy understands that it is not PPE and Caister Academy cannot be held liable for any illness.
- The Caister Community does not judge individuals on their choice of whether to wear a face covering when they are optional, or those who have reason not to wear a face covering when they are recommended.

Notes:

⁽¹⁾DfE Guidance: *'On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. ... Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided.'*

⁽²⁾It is recognised that this may not always be possible for staff working in a supervisory capacity or directing students. Individual members of staff will apply proportional judgement in removing face coverings to communicate clearly with students.