



Gillingham School

FOUNDED 1516

November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I do hope that you had a good half term. Following the government's announcement regarding new national restrictions from 5 November, it is clear that there will be a number of challenges facing us. Firstly, we are pleased that school will remain fully open for all our students during the lockdown period. Attendance during the first half term has been excellent and we would like to thank you for your continued support in regard to this. School is the best and safest place for all our children to be and it is of paramount importance that we collectively continue to encourage high attendance. By way of reassurance whilst we are all concerned about rising rates of infection it is clear that the systems, controls and measures that are in place are proving to be effective. We would ask you to reiterate these measures to your son/daughter:

- Face masks must be worn at all times when moving around the school site. Please could you insure that your son/daughter arrives at school each day with a suitable face mask. Since the beginning of term we have issued on average 250 masks/week at a cost of £90/week. Clearly this is not sustainable and is taking important resources away from teaching and learning.
- The staggered end of the day is very important. Students should leave the site immediately and/or move aboard their bus. They should not congregate in groups.
- At the start of the day, students should not gather in large groups. We have had a number of occasions, particularly outside Lidl where significant numbers of students are gathering before entering the site. This should not be the case.
- During the lockdown period, all after school clubs or activities will not take place. However, any targeted revision sessions, particularly for Years 11 and 13 will continue.
- Students that are entitled to free school meals should make sure that they visit the appropriate canteen during the day in order to collect their meal. We currently have a high percentage of students that are not taking advantage of this.
- Students travelling to and from school on the bus must always sit in their allocated seats with their mask on. This is essential as we have accurate seating plans for each bus.
- Parents/carers will be aware that at the end of school all students should return home immediately. They should not congregate in social spaces including local parks: this also applies at the weekends. We will be talking to all our students about their civic responsibility to follow these expectations when out of school.

A copy of the latest guidance for schools can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

Thank you for your continued support and I very much look forward to another successful half term.

Yours sincerely

P Nicholson
Headteacher

Headteacher P Nicholson BEd (Hons)

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