

5 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We continue to be extremely impressed with the maturity and resilience that all students have shown as they have returned to the Academy following the half-term break.

In response to the National Lockdown which commenced today, the Department of Education yesterday released new guidance for schools in England. I wanted to write to you to highlight the major areas which affect us.

#### **Face coverings**

As of Monday 9th November, it will be **compulsory** that all students and staff (except those who have exemption), must wear a face covering in all corridors and all communal areas whilst inside the school buildings. Students will not be required to wear face coverings in lessons or outside the school buildings.

If a student is exempt from wearing a face covering due to medical advice, please email us at [enquiries@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:enquiries@astrea-longsands.org) enclosing the relevant information and the student will be issued with a pin badge so that members of staff are aware.

Face coverings continue to be compulsory on school transport unless a student is exempt.

Please ensure your child has a face covering with them every day. A spare can also be a good idea in case of a covering being dropped or damaged. The school will have a stock of spares available from the student services offices.

We appreciate that there will be differences of opinion regarding the wearing of face coverings amongst both students and parents/carers, however we have no alternative other than to follow the current government guidelines. We thank you for your support in implementing yet more difficult constraints in what has been an unprecedented time for us all.

#### **Visitors to site**

One expectation of us all is that we reduce journeys and contacts during the national lockdown. Please may I take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that you are not permitted onto the school site unless we have contacted you to collect your child. Any parent/carer meetings will continue to be arranged remotely.

#### **Lessons**

All lesson activities, including practical subjects, can continue as they have been since September.

#### **After school clubs**

Non-academic after school activities are to cease for the period of national lockdown. As such, all after school PE clubs are cancelled. Activities including breakfast and homework club (Year 7 only), revision clinics and additional lessons can continue as normal.

#### **Attendance at school**

The Department for Education are clear that attendance continues to be compulsory. The only exception to this is if an NHS or GP letter is received confirming that a student or member of staff (not someone in their household) is considered clinically extremely vulnerable during this period.

We really appreciate you working with us while having your own challenges at home during this period of National Lockdown. Together, I believe we can really get through this with as normal and safe an experience as possible for your children.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience during these uncertain times.

Yours sincerely



Mr N D Owen  
**Principal**