



19th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well at this time.

An excellent return by our students!

I wanted to begin by saying how impressed we have been by the students' enthusiasm, focus and excellent behaviour since they returned to school. They have also coped incredibly well with having to wear face coverings during lessons, with those students who are exempt helpfully displaying their sunflower badges. It's great to be back at school!

Of course, there are always some students who feel anxiety about returning to school. We will continue to support these students and their families.

Students bringing a face covering and a spare please

Please could you ask your child (unless exempt) to bring a face covering each day and to always bring a spare also. It is really helpful to keep the spare in their bag, so they always have a spare with them. Thank you.

The importance of arriving on time

One thing we always stress to our students is that it is important to arrive on time for school, just as it is important to arrive on time for work as an adult. We are noticing that a minority of students are not entering through their gate at the agreed times and instead, standing on local pavements in groups, making themselves late. We have reminded students about this and we will address it via late detentions where necessary. Please can you remind your child about the importance of arriving onto the school site on time. Thank you.

Students wearing correct uniform

Thank you for all your support with ensuring that our students wear the correct school uniform and follow our rules on personal appearance regarding matters such as hair colour, jewellery and so on, in line with our school expectations which are clearly stated in the Student Organiser. We appreciate that some students have grown a little and some items are now too short, for example some shirts/blouses and some girls' skirts. Please could you kindly review this if it applies to your child. We appreciate that uniform can be financially challenging for a number of families, particularly at the current time. Please bear in mind that we have plenty of supplies at Student Services that we can support you with. For example, if a shirt or skirt is now too small, please contact Student Services if you need to and you may be able to swap your item for one that fits better from our supply of donated uniform. All items held at Student Services are cleaned and in good condition. Thank you, in anticipation, for your support.

We welcome donations of any uniform which is no longer needed and is washed and in good condition. Please could you kindly drop this off at Student Services. Thank you so much.

COVID LFD Home Testing Kits

I hope your child has found using the kits to be manageable and is now in a good routine of completing the tests twice per week, in line with the guidance. These should be completed on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning and on Sunday evening or Monday morning please. In the Kelly household, we have found the Wednesday evening and Sunday evening slots to be the best option! I still can't avoid sneezing and having watering eyes! It's wonderful that we are able to take part in this testing at home as part of the measures to keep us all safe at this time.

If you have found the process challenging, this video, approved by the NHS, may be of use:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>



Today we will be issuing students with their second batch of kits. During the weeks commencing 22nd and 29th March, we will be issuing students with extra kits to be used during the Easter holiday, following government advice that home testing should continue during this period. Should your son/daughter receive a positive test result during the Easter period, please let school know by email at PositiveTest@highamlaneschool.co.uk

Thanks so much for your support with home-testing.

Mental health support for young people and families

Warwickshire Mental Health Service has provided an important summary of information for members of the public during the COVID-19 outbreak. In this document, you will find tips and advice on coping during this uncertain time, and the mental health and wellbeing support available to you in Warwickshire. This important information can be found here:

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1068-1137>

It includes the following:

Chat Health – mental health advice for teens in Warwickshire. ChatHealth is a confidential text messaging service that enables children and young people (aged 11-19) to contact their local public health nursing (school nursing) team. This service is provided by Compass wellbeing workers. You will get a reply within 24 hours between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday (except bank holidays). Text: 07507 331525.

Rise – Rise provides emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people <https://cwrise.com/> During the COVID-19 outbreak, Rise are providing a 24/7 helpline run by qualified mental health clinicians to be there for you to contact when you need support and advice to prevent crisis escalation. Contact the Rise Crisis Team between 8am-8pm on 02476 641799 or call 0300 200 0011 outside of these hours.

Stay Alive - an app for those at risk of suicide and those worried about someone. It is packed full of useful information and tools to help you stay safe in crisis. You can use it if you are having thoughts of suicide or if you are concerned about someone else who may be considering suicide: <https://www.prevent-suicide.org.uk/find-help-now/stayalive-app/> Find more apps on the NHS Library - <https://www.nhs.uk/appslibrary/category/mental-health/>.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) students

The government has announced that from Thursday 1 April, all CEV children should attend school and college, unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend. CEV students must continue to follow the national restrictions that are in place for everyone.

Thank you for your on-going support for your child/children.

Yours sincerely,

P.Kelly
Headteacher

(KL-AA) A Message from Mr Kelly - 19 March 2021