

MDS/SM/libcydboby

17 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Now the end of the academic year has arrived it gives us the chance to reflect on the unique events of the last few months. School closed on 20th March following the announcement from the government at the height of the pandemic, we set up the hub with Haverigg School for vulnerable and key worker children and supported it with our staff, the staff quickly moved the curriculum online to support home learning for students, we reopened on 1st June for the priority group and then for Year 10 and 12 students. At all times we have tried to respond to the advice from the government in the best way for our children and the community.

I would like to thank the staff for the way in which they have responded to the crisis. Staff have supported the hub and the priority group in school throughout this time to provide childcare for key workers and access to online learning for some children. They have worked hard to get the curriculum online and to support children remotely through regular contact. Year 10 and 12 have had face to face teaching during this half term and have appreciated that direct contact with their teachers. All this has been down to their dedication and commitment to the students and the community.

I would also like to thank parents. The challenge of home learning and supporting your children in developing a new way of learning has not been an easy one. The Facebook page which was set up as we closed has provided support to parents and students and this will continue to be a key part of our communication in the future.

At this time of year there are always good byes to be said. Madame De Cadenet is leaving us this time and has been teaching at the school since 2004. This is a fantastic contribution to the school community and in particular I will miss hearing the songs being sung in her classroom as I walk past and her enthusiasm in promoting a love of languages. Madame De Cadenet is taking semi-retirement and I am sure she will find plenty to occupy her time.

We also say goodbye to our Year 13 and Year 11 students. We have not been able to do the usual rituals of farewell for these students but we will be inviting students in on results day to celebrate their achievements with us as they collect their results. A letter has been sent out with more details about how results days are being organised. For students coming into our Sixth Form, we have also sent a letter guaranteeing them a place in the Sixth Form from September.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back at the start of term in September. Year 7 will begin on 3rd September and the rest of the school will start back on 7th September. This is to give Year 7 time to settle into school as they have missed out on transition this year. The expectation from government is that all students should attend school as normal from the start of term. The only exception to this is any student who is under the care of a specialist health professional and their advice is that the student should not attend. If you believe this applies to your child then you should contact the school through genenquiries@millom.cumbria.sch.uk.

Detailed guidance has been issued from the government about reopening in September and we are basing our plans on this guidance. Six weeks is a long time in the pandemic and much may change between now and the start of term. However these are some of the strategies we are planning for:

- Being clear that any child or adult with symptoms must not attend school and should get a test
- A procedure in place for anyone showing symptoms whilst in school
- Increased availability of hand sanitizer through hand sanitizing stations around the site and in classrooms, as well as enhanced cleaning
- A focus on respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach with the availability of tissues in classrooms
- Reducing the number of contacts between children by teaching children in the same group throughout Key Stage 3. In Key Stage 4 and 5 there will need to be year group bubbles due to options subjects
- In classrooms, students will be seated in rows, facing the front and students should maintain a 2 metre distance from adults
- Students will be asked to maintain social distancing where possible and there will be changes to behaviour expectations to reflect this
- Students will not be allowed to share individual equipment and so it is essential that they come to school fully equipped with stationery
- Implementing a one-way system of movement around the school to reduce students passing each other in corridors
- Engaging with the NHS test and trace service when needed. Seek, and follow, advice from Public Health England if there is a confirmed case in school

We are planning on delivering the full curriculum to students when they return with students having lessons in all their normal subjects. There may be changes to the timetable however with, for example, an increase in double lessons to reduce movement around the site and students being in fewer rooms during the day.

We are expecting school transport to run as normal and students are advised to wear face coverings on the bus and public transport. We will be implementing a procedure for students exiting the buses to ensure that they either dispose of their face covering or put it in a plastic bag if it is reusable. We will also be changing the procedures for students getting back on the bus at the end of the day.

Students will be expected to attend school in their normal uniform. Six weeks should be long enough to replace any items that students may have grown out of and for any 'covid haircuts' to grow out.

We will be contacting you again closer to the start of the next academic year with more details about what the new procedures will be. More than ever students will need to show greater responsibility in classrooms, around the school site and in their interactions with other students.

I am looking forward to welcoming all of the staff and students back in September and wish you all a safe summer.

Your faithfully



Matt Savidge