Dear Parents/Carers

Please find a number of updates below;

Face Coverings:

The governmental guidance of 10th May regarding the discontinuation of the wearing of face coverings in school stated that 'the reintroduction of face coverings may be advised in response to particular localised outbreaks'. We have received guidance from our Local Directors of Public Health that local infection rates are still above the national average of 21 per 100 000, especially in secondary age children (85 per 100,000 in local secondary schools compared to a national average of 55 per 100 000 in secondary schools) and that there is evidence of some transmission in some schools. In light of this we have been advised that pupils in Bradford secondary schools are to continue to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas until the end of the 2020/21 academic year.

This means that pupils will be expected to wear face coverings when they enter/exit the site, when moving around corridors, before school and when inside in communal areas (e.g. the canteen/N6). They would not be expected to wear face coverings inside classrooms, when eating or drinking inside and when they are outside in their designated bubble areas. Students can continue to wear them in these locations if they wish to.

This update has just been communicated to us which means unfortunately that our earlier message regarding the use of face coverings has now changed.

Please make sure that your child has a face covering with them when they come to school.

We will continue to ask that students and staff who are exempt from wearing a face covering continue to wear their pink lanyards to show this.

This measure has been followed by a number of local authorities and please be aware that further changes may yet take place.

Y11,12 & 13 final modular tests:

As part of our planned programme for assessing students, the final test will be conducted at home via test materials that will be delivered and returned electronically. The timetable for these tests will be released shortly along with full details of the process. The test week will run from 07.06.21 to 11.06.21 and Y11, 12 and 13 students will not be expected in school. If completing the e-testing at home will prove an issue for any student, please contact your child’s student support officer so that we can address any access arrangements required. Students will be also be sent a google form on Monday 17th May for them to request that their examinations are completed in school. This needs to be completed by Friday 21st May.
With regards to students with SEND, the SEND department will be contacting you directly if additional access requirements are required (such as readers/scribes) and these aspects will be put in place in school.

As per the guidance from the DfE, we plan for Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students to continue to work from home from w/b 14.06.21 on tasks provided that aim to prepare them for the next stage in their education or career. These tasks will include transition materials/online lessons to help students transition from Y11 to Y12. Students that are not staying on into the Sixth Form will also receive a virtual careers meeting during this time.

As it is not possible to hold our usual Y11 & Y13 leavers last day celebration due to assessments and the current Covid-19 restrictions prohibiting large group gatherings, our ‘last day’ will be on 30.06.21 when we will hold a Y11 and Y13 celebration event in school. More details to follow and this will be dependent on both national and local restrictions that are in place. Work has already started on arrangements for yearbooks and leavers hoodies for Y11 and Y13 students.

AS and A Level students will receive their results on Tuesday, 10 August 2021. GCSE pupils will receive their results on Thursday, 12 August 2021. More details will follow about this nearer the time.

Training Days:

To ensure that we have given the maximum opportunity to collate evidence for the submission of their exam grades to our Y11, 12 & 13 students we have given them the bulk of the time available before we have to submit the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) to the exam board (on 18.06.21). We also need to ensure that as many teachers are involved in awarding TAGs for students as a ‘holistic’ approach must be taken for each individual student. To ensure that we are able to spend the maximum amount of time discussing every individual student, we have moved our remaining Training Days to 14.06.21 and 15.06.21. The school will be closed to students for both of these days and reopen on 16.06.21. I appreciate that this is an unusual step but we must make sure that our Y11, 12 and 13 students are given every opportunity possible after their learning was disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated school closures.

PE:

As you will be aware, Covid-19 risk control measures and our lack of changing room space and the priority use of our facilities for PE examination classes, has seen an adjustment to our PE lessons. We have ensured that students have been accessing periods of exercise in a Covid-19 secure method but as the weather is becoming warmer, it is appropriate that we take the next step. After half term, students can choose to wear their school PE kit instead of their normal uniform on the days that they have timetabled PE lessons. Those students wearing PE kit will access slightly different activities to those who choose not to wear kit. Both sets of students will still be undertaking physical exercise, just at differing levels. Those students without school PE kit will be required to wear a plain black, blue or white t shirt/ polo-shirt and shorts/ tracksuit bottoms/ sports leggings. These students can also wear their PE trainers on this day.

Y11 Prom:

In the hope that the current Covid-19 restrictions will ease in time, we have provisionally booked the Bankfield Hotel on Thursday 8th July 2021. It is far too early for us to confirm any arrangements yet
and I strongly urge all students not to purchase prom dresses, suits etc. until closer to the time after we have a better idea of the Covid-19 restrictions both at a national and local level as to whether the event can proceed or not. I must stress that there is no guarantee that this event will be allowed to go ahead and urge you to be mindful of this.

Please be aware that as usual, things have a tendency to change quickly in the current context. I will continue to strive to keep you as updated as possible based on the information and guidance that we receive. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Luke Weston