



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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Headteacher:
Rachel Cave BSc. NPQH

18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your conversations at home about safe practices. We continue to remind students about hand washing, mask wearing and personal responsibility promoting safety for all. There has been evidence that this is impactful, but we must not let up!

We stated that we would review our measures regularly. We wish to continue with staggered dismissal for the next fortnight and then review. The times for dismissal will remain the same to minimise confusion. These are

Year 7 – 2.35pm
Year 8 – 2.45pm
Year 9 – 2.55pm
Years 10 and 11 – 3.05pm
6th Form – 3.05pm

If we continue with this for longer, then we will rotate the dismissal periods at half term breaks to rotate the lessons which are affected.

Whilst we do not wish to overburden inboxes, there are regular updates and production of documents that we feel will be helpful for our community. We would be grateful if families could refer to the documents (See Covid19 section of website) and letters before 'phoning in. Our lines are very busy and many queries could be answered by referring to our website and published documents.

Thank you for the positive feedback to our summary document on health care actions. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has produced a resource about children returning to school, including an [item on COVID-19 and common cold symptoms](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-talking-children-families-about-returning-school-guiding-principles?fbclid=IwAR2MhXEulU18lsvJcnHhnxWy2Voy1A4Ujfbcsa5o6-G1_7KU2Hg04LjEH1o#common-cold-and-covid-19-symptoms) which could be also be helpful:

[https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-talking-children-families-about-returning-school-guiding-principles?fbclid=IwAR2MhXEulU18lsvJcnHhnxWy2Voy1A4Ujfbcsa5o6-G1_7KU2Hg04LjEH1o#common-cold-and-covid-19-symptoms.](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-talking-children-families-about-returning-school-guiding-principles?fbclid=IwAR2MhXEulU18lsvJcnHhnxWy2Voy1A4Ujfbcsa5o6-G1_7KU2Hg04LjEH1o#common-cold-and-covid-19-symptoms)

Parents should call 111 if you are unsure about possible Covid-19 symptoms.



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Engaging with your children's learning: To continue your dialogue about learning, try Mrs Cripps' technique for analysing and deepening learning - '**The Muddiest Point**'. Parents ask children what they've found most challenging/confusing/'muddy' that day and then follow up by asking what their child could do to overcome this learning challenge. This could be by asking your child to explain the tricky concept to you in the simplest way possible (self-elaboration is an excellent learning tool) or how they can go about getting greater clarity on the issue themselves (looking on Bitesize/asking the teacher, a friend etc). It can really help to build a 'culture of error' if teachers and parents help to celebrate that it is these 'muddy moments' which mean we are truly stretching ourselves and learning. Mrs Cripps has used 'The Muddiest Point' several times as a plenary activity this week and 'really enjoyed the discussions that have followed with students'.

This reinforces the position that our classrooms are safe spaces where we can make mistakes to grow in our learning.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel E Cave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms R E Cave
Headteacher