



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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Headteacher:
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25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really pleased that students are positive about being back at Highdown this term. Our attendance figures are excellent compared with local authority and National averages. Highdowners' attendance is around 6% above those averages and has been rising this week. We must not be complacent as we know that there is currently a lower incidence of Corona virus in Reading compared with other areas nationally and we will continue to reinforce the safety and prevention measures in place.

Whilst young people may be at low risk comparatively in having symptomatic Covid19, our safety measures are also to keep our staff members safe. Hence the face masks in communal areas is not something trivial that students can disregard.

Thank you for continuing to supply your children with mini sanitiser bottles, ours are at key entrances to buildings, but having their own will help young people to use more frequently. We are picking up dropped masks around our estate and would ask that discussions at home remind students about personal responsibility in provision and use of these.

It appears that summer has finally departed. We will maintain our windows open policy for good ventilation. The heating has come on at school now, but we would recommend wearing plain white tee shirts under school shirts for added warmth. Our uniform has good warm jumpers to be worn under blazers and our sports kit can be very warm also. There is more use of outside spaces at the start of the school day and at breaktimes. A warm, waterproof winter coat is necessary. Many schools are not allowing any inside space to be used at break times now, we will continue to review our approach.

Teachers are focussing on making learning engaging with the restrictions we have in place. I have been very pleased to see the high number of praise points being regularly issued. I hope you are all able to track this through the Classcharts App.

Next Friday (2nd October) the school is closed for Professional Learning Day 2 (INSET) as per the school calendar.

Yours sincerely

Ms R E Cave
Headteacher

