

Friday, 14 May 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Removal of the Requirement for Face Masks in School | Personal Safety Reminders

No more face masks for students:

You will have probably heard that the DfE has removed the requirement for students to wear face masks in classrooms and communal areas from Monday 17 May. We are therefore informing you that your child does not need to wear a face mask in school. However, please ensure that they have a face mask if they travel on public transport as this is still a requirement. This is the only thing the DfE has changed for now. Please note that all other control measures and regulations we have put in place to mitigate contracting and / or spreading the coronavirus remain in place at school. Please also remember not to send your child in if they have any Covid-19 symptoms but ensure they seek a PCR test. Your children have been given additional LFD home-test kits and we ask that they continue to test themselves according to the instructions at least twice a week.

Extra-curricular activities to resume:

As restrictions begin to lessen, we look forward to opening up our school to the usual activities we have longed to continue. We are reinstating our extra-curricular clubs and soon there will be a return to off-site activities in line with the government's roadmap out of the restrictions. Once these are reintroduced a timetable will be published so that parents are aware of which activities are taking place outside the normal school timetable.

Going straight home after school:

In order to ensure the safety and security of our students, we have reminded the students that they must go straight home at the end of the school day. Any students who loiter around the bus stops without a legitimate purpose and refuse to move on following requests from staff will be subject to the School's disciplinary procedures. We ask parents and carers to please speak with their children to ensure they get home within a reasonable time.

Keeping Safe:

We have been made aware of some unusual and unpleasant events which have taken place in the Harrow borough and wanted to alert parents to remind their children of ways of being vigilant and keeping safe. For example, students should not walk on the street with their mobile phones in plain sight looking down towards them. This leaves them open to any potential threat of their phones being taken and can also compromise their wellbeing and safety, for example when crossing roads. We do not want to alarm you unnecessarily but we thought you would appreciate being informed and see

this as a reminder. Please also read the information we have sent to you regarding Personal Safety, The Law on E-Scooters and Edibles. Edibles are food products that may contain cannabis which are disguised in many forms of sweets, gummies and lollipops. You can also find this on our website.

I am sure you will agree that the safety and security of all our students is of utmost importance.

Looking after our community:

The vast majority of our school community are extremely pleasant, kind and responsible and wear their uniforms with pride. They represent us positively in the community but I would like to remind you that all of our students must uphold the highest standards both in school and outside of school when they are in full school uniform. We have also been informed of some anti-social behaviour in the form of students kicking a ball in residential areas. Some residents have informed us that they are concerned of the risk of damage to their property or residences. This is a real shame and lets down the positive attributes of our students and the entire community. Please note that any reports made to the school are always taken very seriously and may result in the individual/s facing a severe sanction, such as an exclusion, if it brings the school into disrepute. We will not tolerate the good reputation of our students being tarnished by the behaviour of a few and we know we can count on your support by discussing this at home with your children.

Rooks Heath is a school that is very much at the heart of the community and we pride ourselves on our positive relationships and reputation within it.

How Are You Harrow Wellbeing Survey:

Your child's wellbeing is important to us as well. For our parents of students in Years 7 – 10, I hope you will find some time to also read the How Are You Harrow survey information sent to you and encourage your child to complete the survey. We will receive a report which will help schools to act on the implications of the results.

In the meantime, please be vigilant and report anything you are concerned about to the school or via 101 in a non-emergency or 999 for an emergency.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Manderson
Headteacher