



18 September 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Guardians

I am writing to provide you with an update on how the Academy is settling in to the new academic year.

The first Newsletter of the term has been published today and in my introduction I outlined how we are using retrieval practice to help improve learning. Improving the quality of education for our students and pushing hard to ensure each individual reaches their potential, remains my absolute priority despite the distractions of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, we have needed to spend some time this term getting the Academy used to the new routines and procedures and I have continued to be very pleased with how well students have adapted to what is becoming the new normal.

This week we introduced a request that all members of the school community wear a face covering/mask when indoors in communal areas such as corridors and staircases. These are places in the school where it is not possible to keep good social distancing at all times so the face covering/mask provides extra protection. Students have responded well to this and we are continuing to remind students to put on their face coverings/masks as they enter the building and before they leave lessons. As always it would be great if parents could support us with this message too.

As I said in my letter last week, keeping good hand hygiene is particularly important in helping to reduce the transmission risk. Over the summer we installed some additional outdoor hand washing sinks and most of them are now in operation so we will be reminding students that these facilities are available and that they should be used throughout the day. Hand hygiene is so important and washing with soap and water is better than using hand sanitiser gel. To support this, our cleaning schedules have been increased significantly during the school day to ensure that commonly touched surfaces are kept as clean as possible. Again it would be great to have parent support with this message.

We haven't had a case of a student having Coronavirus yet but some parents have asked what would happen if a student was tested positive. The Government has provided clear guidance for what schools should do in the event of a positive case and we would follow the advice provided by the Public Health Authorities. I would like to assure parents that we will write to you as soon as we know of a positive case and inform you of the steps we will need to take. All communication will take place via ParentMail or Text message.

Finally I'd like to remind parents that there are two parent Governor vacancies on our newly established Local Governing Body. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the strategic leadership of the Academy and to bring the parent view to the important decisions that the Governing Body makes. There is further information on the website ([Click here](#)) about the role and about how you can arrange a meeting with me to discuss things further.

Thank you for your continued support of Lord Grey Academy.

Jim Parker
Principal

