

4 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing regarding the recent Covid-19 developments and the lockdown which is due to commence on Thursday 5th November. As I am sure you are aware restrictions are to be tightened nationally but Schools and Colleges are expected to remain open. However, with rising cases across all regions, we have reviewed our policies for the Post-16 Wardhayes Building and are implementing some changes to our Covid Health & Safety Policy.

Our main concern is the number of students using the Common Room and Café 6 and the difficulties in maintaining adequate social distancing. Currently if a Post-16 student were to experience a positive test result it is likely that Public Health England would ask all our Post-16 students to self-isolate as a result of potential contact in the Common Room/Café. This would be hugely disruptive to students' education and the cumulative lost learning time massive. Therefore, we are making the following changes:

- Post-16 students should only come to College for their lessons, where possible, to avoid having too many people in the building at any one time. They should vacate the building after any timetabled sessions.
- Where students cannot go home or leave the site in their non-lesson time, they should be either in the Study Room, Common Room or Café 6.
- We will allow study periods to be done remotely to help us reduce the numbers in the building.
- If a student cannot go home outside of their lesson times and need to use the Common Room / Café then they **must sign in on the sheets provided and sit in and stay in a marked seat. Seats have been arranged in 'mini-bubbles' of 6 to minimise contacts and to allow us to track who has sat with who. Under no circumstances must students move seats around or move between groups of 6.**
- Please be aware that with 2 metre spacing between 'mini-bubbles' we only have capacity to seat 60 in the Common Room/Café, hence the desire for us to have people leave the building when they do not have a lesson.
- To enable us to rule out students being potential contacts of future positive cases we would advise all Post-16 students to download the NHS Covid-19 Test and

Trace App. The contact tracing facility uses smartphone technology to see if someone is deemed a contact with somebody who has tested positive. More information on this can be found at:

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

We really do not want to close the Common Room and Café 6 as it would be massively inconvenient for students (especially those who cannot get home between lessons), but we cannot jeopardise the whole of Years 12 and 13 being asked to self-isolate in the event of a positive case. If students can follow the new arrangements, then hopefully we can keep them open. The arrangements for lessons will be unchanged. **These changes will be implemented from Thursday 5th November.**

We hope these changes will significantly reduce the risk of a whole Post-16 self-isolation period and we thank you in advance for your support and understanding in these difficult circumstances.

Kind regards



Neil Sproats
Assistant Principal – Post-16-Lead

