

5 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

New National Lockdown: School Regulations

As you will all know the Government have placed England into a further national lockdown which is between Thursday 5th November and Wednesday 2nd December. I am writing to you today to explain what that means for schools and our students in CVEA. The DfE document states that being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of education, and children's future ability to learn. It continues to be our aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time.

In response to the guidance from the Department for Education, I can confirm that:

- CVEA will remain open for ALL students
- students must attend each day as per usual
- if we have positive cases we will continue with the existing procedures of self-isolation as advised by Public Health
- there will be no extracurricular activities after school time for sport or clubs
- the CCF will not operate and will be postponed until the lockdown ceases
- Breakfast Club before school WILL continue to operate before school as this assists with childcare and for our vulnerable students. All can attend in Year 7, 8 and 9. To book please let us know.
- Year 11 before and after school booster and intervention sessions will continue as they are a main part of the school day for Year 11 students.
- It is mandatory for students and staff to wear masks in all areas of the school except classrooms and whilst eating. Please provide your child with a mask. Those students who are not wearing masks now must provide medical evidence as to the reasons why they cannot wear a mask. Staff will be following this up with parents.

Sport and physical education

Sport and physical education as part of education and training can continue.

Outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising distancing between consistent student groups and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene and using maximum fresh air ventilation through either opening doors and windows or ventilation systems. We will continue sport during the school day.

Children who are extremely clinically vulnerable

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend childcare or nursery during the period this advice is in place.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education or childcare.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice. Schools continue to remain open for all children and young people as they have since the start of the autumn term for the duration of the national restrictions.

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can take action to reduce risks still further.

I hope that this clarifies the current position as far as attending school is concerned. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us on enquiries@cvea.co.uk and we will respond within 24 hours.

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. Please keep safe and be assured that as a school we are following all the national guidance and health and safety advice provided by the DfE.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J S Bridges OBE
Principal

