



Hazelwick School

An Academy

Headteacher: Ms A Fearon BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Chair of Governors: Dr K Milcoy

Dear parent/carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

We have had a positive and successful first half-term at school, with students and teachers enjoying being back in lessons. Over the course of the half-term, we have introduced a number of additional measures to address Covid-related concerns. These have included enforcing the wearing of face coverings at all times around the school site, ensuring that classrooms are well-ventilated and rigorously insisting on the use of hand sanitiser on entering and exiting the classroom. We have maintained a system of staggered lunchtimes with year group zoning of social spaces which has proved to be successful in terms of minimising contact between students.

At the beginning of term, we introduced a system of teaching in year group zones. As the weeks have progressed, this is proving to be increasingly problematic. As staff are not teaching in departments, they have had to move across the school site to a different classroom every lesson, which has limited the number of resources available for many lessons, and in some cases, impacted negatively on teaching and learning. The beginning of lessons has not been as sharp and focused as usual, as staff have not always been able to arrive right at the start of the lesson.

The biggest issue, however, is the delivery of the curriculum; with lessons not being taught in specialist classrooms, we are concerned that, as time moves on, this will seriously impede student progress, particularly in practical subjects, including science, design technology, art and photography, music, drama, computer science and IT, media studies, engineering, food technology, child development and PE. Access to computer rooms for students to complete coursework in a range of subjects is, under the present system, limited and difficult.

On returning from the half-term break, therefore, we are reverting to teaching in departmental areas to ensure full delivery of the curriculum in all subjects in all key stages. It is imperative that we are able to fulfil the expectation that we deliver the full educational offer to all our students. In addition to the measures already in place, we will be ensuring that all classroom desks and touch-points on chairs will be cleaned at the end of each lesson. Students will move around the school site, walking on the left-hand side and having minimal contact with students from other year groups. At social times, students will remain in their year group zones and we will retain the current system of staggered lunchtimes.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support in these challenging times.

Every good wish.

Ms A Fearon
Headteacher