



ST/KJP

6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well. As we start the second half of the Autumn term I wanted to update you on a few things:

Lockdown

As you know, on Saturday evening the Prime Minister gave a Downing Street press conference, alongside Chief Scientific Adviser Sir Patrick Vallance and Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty, to announce a four-week national lockdown in England from Thursday 5th November until 2nd December. In his statement the Prime Minister announced that schools will be kept open to prioritise the education and wellbeing of children and young people. This means that most procedures in school will continue as they did before half-term. Despite the challenges of a national lockdown, we will continue to do our utmost to ensure that our students are able to have the educational support they need and deserve.

We would like to congratulate our students on their mature response to the measures that have been put in place and we appreciate the conversations that are happening at home to reinforce the safety messages of hand hygiene, respectful distancing and use of face coverings where appropriate. Students have respectfully and responsibly followed the new systems and structures, including amendments to timings of the school day this half term.

Ventilation

Government guidance states it is important to ensure that the academy is well ventilated whilst a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. The academy has air handling units in classrooms which extract air from the room and replace it with fresh air so that it is not recirculating. These units are working to 100% capacity every day but in order to increase the ventilation rate where possible, the academy will now be enhancing this with natural ventilation through opening windows (in cooler weather windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space). Where appropriate we will also be opening internal doors to assist with creating airflow and if necessary opening external doors, if they are not fire doors and where it is safe to do so. The academy will also be opening high level windows in preference to low level to reduce draughts and will also increase the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied (e.g. between classes, during break and lunch, when a room is unused). Increased heating will be used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained particularly in occupied spaces.

It is therefore reasonable for the academy to provide flexibility to allow additional, suitable indoor clothing and to adapt our uniform rules and standards in the short term. Therefore, students will be permitted to wear a jumper under their blazer when in classrooms and to wear an outdoor coat during break and lunchtimes only. This will be the case up until the end of this term and we will review this prior to the start of next term.

Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall. WS4 1BW | **Principal:** Stuart Turnbull

Telephone: 01922 685777 | **Email:** postbox@scacademy.co.uk | **Website:** www.scacademy.co.uk



@OrmistonShelfield



@ShelfieldCA



@ShelfieldAcademy

Aspiration Positivity Responsibility Achievement



Face Masks

Face coverings must be worn by all students and staff when moving around the premises, including corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. **It is therefore essential that your child brings a face mask to school with them.** All masks must be kept in a sealable bag when not in use. It is important that all students wear a clean mask each day, preferably re-usable with one to wash and one to wear.

PE Kit

Students have been arriving at school in their PE kit on their designated PE days. This has proved very successful and will therefore continue for the foreseeable future. Please can I ask for your support in ensuring students come to school in the correct PE kit. This is a Sheffield PE tracksuit top, Sheffield PE polo shirt, plain black shorts/tracksuit bottoms or leggings, plain black PE socks and trainers. If students do not have a Sheffield PE tracksuit top they can wear a tracksuit top which must be either **blue** or **black**.

Visits to School

In order to keep our staff and students safe at this challenging time, parents and carers are reminded that they are not allowed into the school building without a pre-arranged 'essential' appointment. Students should ensure that they have all their necessary equipment for the school day.

SIMS Parent/ Student App

We would like to thank all those parents who have registered and already downloaded the SIMS Parent App. Moving forward this will be our main method of communication between school and home, therefore if you have not already registered please check for an email from no-reply@sims.co.uk and follow the simple steps to register and download the app. If you have not received the email, or need to update your email address, then please contact the school reception or email parentapp@scacademy.co.uk

We will continue to provide you with updates and key information. We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received so far from our parents and carers and would like to thank you for this and for re-enforcing our key messages with students.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal

