



Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Important Reminders for the Start of the New Half Term**

We hope you have enjoyed a safe half term break with your children. We would like to share a few reminders of key messages to ensure all students can return to College safely on Monday 2 November.

### **Keep your child at home, if they or a member of the household shows COVID-19 symptoms**

Since September, there have been six single confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the College. These are considered single cases as there is no traceable direct contact between the cases within College. In each case, parents/carers and other individuals have taken exactly the right action by keeping their child at home at the first onset of symptoms, thereby reducing the transmission of infection.

Please keep your child at home, if they or a member of your household shows the following symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- Loss or change to the sense of taste or smell

Please arrange a test for the symptomatic person as quickly as possible and keep College informed of the result. The College has a small number of home testing kits, so please contact us if you are struggling to access a test. Please only request a test for a person showing COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Face Coverings – an essential item for every student, every day**

From Monday 2 November, if your child arrives at College without a face covering, they will not be allowed onto site as this places other students and staff at risk of COVID-19. Students need to consider a face covering as part of their essential uniform and equipment, which is needed to keep others safe. We ask parents/carers to check every day that your child has a face covering. The College is able to provide a face mask in an emergency only or if a family is facing financial difficulties.

### **College Uniform – Blazer and/or plain, black V-neck jumper/cardigan**

As stated in previous letters, students must wear a black blazer and/or a plain, black V-neck jumper or cardigan. Classroom windows and doors are open to increase the supply of fresh air, which reduces the risk of spreading coronavirus. It is important that students feel comfortable to learn, therefore with the teacher's permission, students may also wear an outdoor coat or hoodie on top of their black blazer/jumper.

A Minsthorpe hoodie is part of the College PE kit only and may not be worn instead of a black blazer/jumper.

We will lend items of uniform, such as jumpers, if necessary and will ensure that these are washed.



### Home Learning – Satchel: One

We are pleased with the overwhelming number of students and parents/carers who have logged onto Satchel: One and we can see already the positive impact on home learning. This is now the online platform for all home learning and for all remote learning in the event of future school closure. Please contact [enquiries@minsthorpe.cc](mailto:enquiries@minsthorpe.cc) if we can support you or your child in any way with this.

### Poppy Appeal 2020

We are always very proud of the kind donations made by our students to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Students will be able to buy a poppy from staff at the start of the College day or at snack break – please give generously.

The Remembrance Services at the cenotaphs in the villages served by our College are always well attended by local families and each year the College is represented by the Principal and two Year 7 students, who are always extremely proud to lay a wreath on behalf of all connected with the College. Unfortunately, this year's service has been cancelled as a result of the current restrictions. We will mark Remembrance Day in College with two minutes silence across College at 11am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

On a final note, we would like to repeat our thanks to parents/carers and to students for the excellent way everyone has responded to the very many changes since September. As we are all acutely aware, Wakefield moves into Tier 3 COVID restrictions from Monday, so we need to maintain the **Hands Face Space** measures throughout the coming half term, in order to reduce the transmission of infection across the community.

Stay safe everyone.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Mr M Gilmore in black ink.

Mr M Gilmore  
Principal

Handwritten signature of Mrs R Merritt in black ink.

Mrs R Merritt  
Principal