Thursday 3rd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well and the Summer holiday has been a relaxing and welcome break.

As your child’s return to school draws nearer, I am writing to confirm arrangements from the 7th of September.

Essentially, the plans set out in our July communication will remain in place. Current DfE and Government guidance, supports the full opening of both school sites.

School transport will still be available and we will continue to reduce the amount of movement between groups in the schools as far as possible.

We are able to confirm that:

* Each school will operate as a bubble.
* There will not be a requirement for one metre or two metre distancing between children, but the schools will encourage this, particularly with older pupils where they can.
* Students should wear school uniform as normal.
* Students at Shenstone Lodge will arrive by 8.50 and leave at 2pm Mon –Thurs and 1pm on Fridays (after lunch). This change will support the school to reduce larger groups of children mixing as teachers PPA time will be taken on the Friday afternoon. This will be reviewed before the end of the first Autumn half term and you will be advised of any changes as necessary.
* Students who have had transport provided by the LA prior to ‘lockdown’ will have this reinstated, unless parents/carers opt for the Local Authorities ‘personal budget’ scheme : please email the following for further information: sen\_transportofficer@sandwell.gov.uk A letter will have been sent to all those affected which outlines the measures to be taken by the transport teams to minimise the risk of Covid -19 transmission whilst on the vehicles.
* Collection of students using the school minibus will no longer be in place
* Parents and other visitors will continue to remain off site as far as possible.
* Pupils will have access to a broad, balanced curriculum which will be enhanced to take account of any additional mental health issues that may have arisen due to the pandemic.
* There will continue to be a strong emphasis on following extended hygiene protocols.
* In the event of an individual displaying symptoms of Covid-19 whilst in school, they will be returned home as soon as possible. School will offer any necessary advice so that a Covid test is taken.
* If an individual tests positive for Covid-19 the whole school site may need to close.
* Health and wellbeing will be a high priority to ensure pupils are supported appropriately through this transitional phase.

As previously stated, we all know how quickly things can change in the current climate, and we would like to reassure you all that we will act, as soon as possible, to keep you updated.

We are looking forward to seeing you all next week

Yours sincerely



Neil Toplass

Executive Head Teacher