

REF: HT/tlb

Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to give you some school updates as we head towards the second half of the autumn term.

Face Coverings

Following the recent positive COVID-19 case in school and the subsequent period of self-isolation for some of our Year 10 and 11 students, we have once again reviewed the procedures we have in place in school to keep everyone safe. At the moment all staff and sixth form students are expected to wear a face covering in the corridors. After half term, **all staff and students** will be asked to wear their mask in communal areas and corridors. Face coverings are not expected within the classroom. Students are also welcome to wear masks in their social areas or in any areas of the school that they cannot socially distance. Some of our students suffer from anxiety and some have medical issues, so this new measure will not apply to them.

Drop off/Pick Up

The construction of Newquay Primary Academy is due to begin on 2nd November. As we will have construction work taking place on site, this means that there will be no drop off or pick up available from the bus bay on Trevenson Road. We advise parents and carers to use Newquay Community Sports Centre or safe drop off areas where students can walk safely onto the school site. Please do not use the main coach car park in front of The Quay building, as we need to maintain clear access for the school buses, and taxis, and ensure the safety of students in this area.

Exams 2021

This week, the government made an announcement regarding GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021. The key points are as follows:

- Exams will go ahead, but most will be delayed by about three weeks, taking place between 7th June and 2nd July 2021.
- One maths and one English GCSE exam will be held just before the May half-term, to give pupils affected by Covid-19 a better chance of still sitting a paper in each of these subjects.
- Results days will be Tuesday 24th August for A and AS levels and Friday 27th August for GCSEs.
- It is expected that awarding organisations will align the timing of vocational and technical qualifications with that for GCSEs, AS and A levels.
- Contingency measures will be developed to address "the range of scenarios which might impact students' ability to sit exams". Ofqual will spend the next six weeks consulting on what these contingency measures might look like, with more detail to be published "later in the Autumn".
- No further subject-level changes to exams and assessments will be made, beyond the small adjustments already outlined by Ofqual.

We are frustrated that it will be another six weeks at least until schools receive any more clarity about what will happen if students aren't able to sit exams. We will update you when we have more news.

Activities Week

This is the time of year when preparation takes place for next summer's Activities Week. Year 10 have already been informed that Work Experience week will not take place next year due to the impact of COVID-19 on our partner employers' businesses. As we are unable to plan and book trips and visits, we have reached the sad conclusion that Activities Week cannot take place in the usual way next year and that the week of 12th July will therefore be a normal teaching and learning week, with students following their normal timetables. The only exception will be the Amsterdam and Paris trips which were carried forward from this year, subject to whether we are able to travel to Europe next July.

Support

We appreciate that many families have been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 in our community. Please contact us at school if you feel that Tretherras could support you in any way, for example with items of school uniform or equipment. We will be providing food boxes for some of our families over half term and we are happy to support any family who might need us if their circumstances have changed – please do get in touch.

As a school, we are particularly proud of our students and staff who have coped with very different Tretherras routines to the ones we are all used to this half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2nd November, which is a Blue Week on the timetable.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



MRS S FAIRBAIRN
Executive Headteacher