

23 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your continued support throughout the first half term of 2022.

I've waited until today before sending an end of half term letter to make sure the advice and information provided is in line with government policy and, most importantly, the right thing to do for our school and its students. Given the imminent withdrawal of all legislation around coronavirus, including the legal requirement to self-isolate if positive, we're making the following changes to everyday life at JCSC when we return **next Tuesday, 1st March**:

- **Face coverings will no longer be required at all in or around the school buildings.** Students are more than welcome to continue wearing a face covering if they would like to do so, but there is no longer the expectation that they will be worn in or around school.
- **Face coverings will no longer be expected on the school buses.** Again, students are more than welcome to do so if they wish.
- **We will no longer be supplying tests** or expecting students to carry out the twice weekly asymptomatic testing at home.

Remember that **all students should return on Tuesday, 1st March** following our last staff training day of the academic year on Monday.

Our students are wonderful, well-behaved young people but there are occasions where mobile phone usage during the school day has caused some unwanted, unnecessary and often upsetting incidents. We understand that many parents encourage their children to carry mobile phones with them in case of emergency on the way to and from school – that is absolutely fine and quite sensible, particularly given the distance some of our students travel each day.

Once students enter the school grounds, however, phones must be switched off and put safely away to avoid distraction. If you need to urgently contact your child, please do it in the old-fashioned way and call reception – they will be delighted to help you, and to pass on any messages you may have for your child.

Whilst the 'phone away' rule has been in place for several years, too much lesson time has been lost due to discussion about whether or not a phone is actually being used... To avoid this argument we are amending and simplifying the rule – from now on **if a phone is seen** by a member of staff, **whether or not it is being used**, it will be **confiscated** and handed to the pastoral team. In order to reclaim that phone, **parents will be asked to attend school to collect it.**

I know this will cause inconvenience to parents but that can be completely avoided by supporting us in ensuring your child is aware of the simple rule – put your phone away at the start of the school day, and keep it in your bag until you leave. Phone out? Phone gone...

You will be aware that there have been no external examinations or tests for the past two years, but SATs, GCSEs and A-levels are certain to return after the Easter break. It is more important than ever, given the disruption to learning over the past two years, that we work together to ensure students in year 6, year 11 and year 13 are as prepared as possible.

All students in year 6 are being given a Chromebook to take home and use as a revision tool, with work set by their teachers using online resources and Google Classroom. They are also actively encouraged to use them regularly to brush up on their arithmetic, multiplication tables, spellings, punctuation and grammar amongst other things. If you have a child in year 6 and they haven't received their Chromebook, [please follow this link to register for a virtual meeting with Mr Nisbet on Monday 28th February at 6pm](#), where he will tell you all about this innovative scheme.

Year 11 and year 13 students will be given the opportunity to attend revision sessions and will certainly be given focused revision tasks to complete in the run-up to their exams. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring your child is entirely focused on their studies for what is now a relatively short space of time, but which could make so much difference to their life chances if well used. If you would like any information on how to help your child through the coming weeks and months, please do get in touch.

Miss Holmes will begin her maternity leave any day now and we are having to move some teaching staff around after half term in order to accommodate her absence:

- Mr Eyeington will teach Miss Holmes' A-level English Literature groups, with Mrs Mavin taking some of Mr Eyeington's history classes in years 8 and 9
- Miss Morley will move from the lower school site to the upper school site, and her English groups in years 6 and 7 will be taught by Miss Middleton
- Miss Middleton's class will be taken by Miss Armstrong, and we welcome a new member of staff into year 5, Mrs Courtnage who will teach Miss Armstrong's class

I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming Mrs Courtnage to our school, to welcome back Mrs Mavin who returns following her maternity leave, and to wish Miss Holmes the very best of luck for her new adventures!

We're always looking to improve what we do, to make sure that we provide the best education for your children and improve our communication.

[To assist us, it would be great if you could complete a short survey by following the link in this paragraph. It's multiple choice and shouldn't take you more than a few minutes to complete. It will really help us to focus our efforts.](#)

As ever, if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Neil Rodgers'.

Neil Rodgers

Executive Headteacher