



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

Dear parent/carer,

As the term comes to an end, I want to thank you all one final time for your tremendous levels of support over the last few months. We have worked extremely hard to create an approach to home learning that we felt was both of high quality and also supportive to our students and yourselves. The approach has worked well and this is due to the partnership between home and school and our fantastic students who have applied themselves so diligently.

As you will be aware, we have shared a student and parent survey to help us prepare further for September. I want to thank you for the fantastic response. Within a few hours we had 249 parent surveys completed. However, we still have a number of students who have not yet completed their survey. Can you please ensure that your child has completed it. It was sent to their school email address and I have added a link to their Google classroom.

Looking at the student survey responses, some of our students are worried about being behind and want to catch up whilst others want to keep busy over the summer holidays. In response to this feedback, we have created a Google classroom for each year group with work that they can do over the summer. **This work is not compulsory** but we felt it was important to provide support for those students who wanted it.

The Google classroom codes are:

Year 6 into 7 - **noj67rs**

Year 7 into 8 - **hxydtyd**

Year 8 into 9 - **vi5blfl**

Year 9 into 10 - **whtznd6**

Year 10 into 11 - **pwnh5o4**

In my last letter I explained that **our number one priority is the safety of your child, your family and all of our staff.** We need to look after each other and ensure that we are not spreading the disease to other members of the team. I also mentioned that the government guidance states: "Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. However, face coverings are required at all times on public transport." I think the key term in that sentence is current evidence.

TANFIELD SCHOOL
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The guidance was written on the 2nd of July. On the 14th of July the government stated that face coverings need to be worn in shops from the 24th of July. This has been put in place because people are in an enclosed area where they can't socially distance. We are, therefore, in a position where our students are being asked to wear a face covering on a bus and in a shop because that will keep them safe but then sit in a classroom with 20 or so other students and a member of staff but don't need to wear a face covering.

A report recently published by the Royal Society suggests that even basic homemade face coverings can reduce transmission if enough people wear them when in public. The study, based on mathematical modelling, showed that if an entire population wore face coverings that were only 75% effective, it would bring the R value, from 4.0 to under 1.0. In another piece of scientific research, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences last month, scientists calculated that wearing face coverings prevented more than 78,000 infections in Italy between April 6 and May 9, and more than 66,000 infections in New York City between April 17 and May 9.

In our parent survey, 47.9% of parents are worried about their child returning to school. 44% are concerned that their child will catch the disease. 6.4% of parents replying are classed as extremely vulnerable or live with someone who is. With the change of guidance about shops and the government's history of performing U-turns, we feel that we should make our decisions based on your concerns and what the science is telling us.

I'm worried that the guidance about face coverings will change in the Autumn term, once it is too late and schools are seeing a rise in infections. We are therefore going to request students wear a face covering, when walking through corridors and in a classroom where social distancing is not possible. 73.8% of parents have said that their students have face coverings. As mentioned in the previous letter, we will support anyone who is struggling to get one.

We are also requesting students bring something to read into school, either a book or magazine, as we will be asking students to read when teachers move from one lesson to another.

As we have seen, things are continually evolving and by September, it could be different again. Therefore, I will write to you again in the final week of the summer holidays to give you any necessary updates.

Finally, I want to thank you once again for your support, we have really appreciated it. I hope you enjoy the best summer possible and if at any point over the six weeks you need to get in touch, please use the help@tanfieldschool.co.uk email.

Take care and stay safe,

Steven Clough

Headteacher

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