

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**THANK YOU** for getting your children to school since the start of term. I hope the new Year 7s are now finding their feet and I sincerely hope that all students are enjoying getting back to some sense of normality. I am pleased to inform you that the national attendance figure is 88% and Testwood School's attendance figure is 94.4% so enormous thanks to parents/carers and students - this is absolutely awesome!

### **Masks to be worn at change of lessons from 2<sup>nd</sup> November:**

Although I am thrilled that Testwood School has remained Covid free, the senior team, Health and Safety representative, the wellbeing group and the school council have discussed at length the using of face masks around the school and I have made the decision to move from a position of 'free choice' to one of 'strong encouragement' from **2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**.

The reasons for this are threefold:

- The steep rise in COVID-19 cases nationally since the start of September/October
- The increasing number of schools which have had to partially close nationally due to confirmed cases amongst staff and students
- The wishes of a significant proportion of the staff and students of Testwood School

Masks, face coverings or visors can be the student's own choice so long as they are appropriate and not offensive. Offensive or inappropriate face coverings will be confiscated. Full training and guidance will be issued to students during their first tutor session, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, due to **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November being an Inset day**.

### **Uniform**

Further to a previous ParentPay message that was sent out to parents and carers on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, please ensure that students follow the uniform rules. A link to the communication can be found here:

<http://www.testwoodsportscollege.co.uk/?p=13050>

### **Google Classroom**

You should have now received a ParentPay message from Mr Webber, Deputy Headteacher, regarding Google Classroom. Details of this communication can be found here:

<http://www.testwoodsportscollege.co.uk/?p=13081>

### **Parking near school site**

I am afraid I have received yet another complaint regarding the parking of vehicles in Testwood Lane, near the school. Please do not stop on the zig zag or double yellow lines when waiting to drop off or collect your children. Let's all be considerate to avoid children or pedestrians being injured.

## **Keep Hampshire Safe**

Hampshire County Council has asked us to share the following important public health message with you all:

*Coronavirus infections are continuing to rise, and Hampshire is on 'Medium' Covid alert level.*

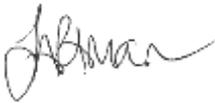
*We need your help to stop the spread of the virus, so please continue following national public health guidance this half term.*

*Remember 'hands, face, space' and the Rule of 6: which means no large gatherings indoors or outdoors.*

*Let's all work together to Keep Hampshire Safe.*

I hope you and your families have a safe and restful half-term.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs J. Pitman**  
**Headteacher**