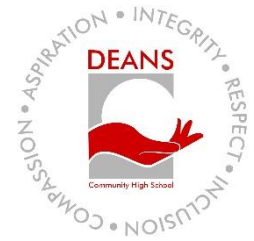


Parent Update

13 November 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, we have now had a few cases of COVID-19 within our school community and this has resulted in a number of students and staff being required to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. Throughout this time, we have been working very closely with West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian to ensure that all protocols are followed closely. This is clearly a challenging time for yourselves, your children and staff in school, however I have been heartened by the responses from all in ensuring that our young people are able to continue to access learning. Senior staff have been contacting the parents/carers of each child who is self-isolating following the letters being sent out. This has allowed us to check that parents have received the letter and ask if there are any things that we can put in place to support home learning such as providing a laptop or paper copies of work.

Students within S4-6 have now been wearing face coverings in all of their classes and I have been particularly impressed with how responsible they have been in doing so. As you know, all students from S1-6 who are not exempt are required to wear face coverings in the corridors, dining hall and other social spaces within the school. Could I ask that you impress on your child the importance of following this guidance at all times, particularly if your child is in S1-3. We are still handing out disposable masks to those who need them but arriving to school with a face covering ready to use would certainly help ensure that all students are wearing them as soon as they arrive.

We have looked again at the measures we have in place within the school to minimise the risk of students being required to self-isolate, one of these being the request we sent out last Friday that students wear their PE kit all day on days when they have PE. This appears to be working well and students have been happy with this arrangement. Should any wish to change clothes however, we will make arrangements for them to have access to a changing room. This week also saw the reintroduction of indoor PE again and this too has been very well received by students and staff. There are limitations on the activities that can be done and the PE staff have again been carefully following the advice around this from Education Scotland.

Finally, on a much-needed non-COVID topic, we received some wonderful news this week on the success of a former student, Ciaran Jones. Ciaran was a keen sportsman in his time at Deans and was a particularly passionate golfer. He has now signed a 2 year USA Golf Scholarship which will see him study in Iowa from next August. We all wish Ciaran every success in this very exciting opportunity.

Pauline Allison
Head Teacher

Reminder of Covid 19 Protocols

As you are aware, with the return of our pupils and staff to school, we have put procedures in to place that support all members of the school community if anyone displays symptoms of Covid 19.

A reminder that the symptoms are:

- High temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If a pupil displays symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child (please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details). **Pupils over the age of 16 may return home themselves.** The pupil should, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.

You will be asked to follow Test and Protect and we will provide you with a copy of the Test and Protect Leaflet and Step by Step Guide when your child is collected.

Information on the groups of children within the school, **and on school transport**, and the adults that each group of children come in to contact with will be collected. This is to fulfil legal responsibilities for public health and will allow Test and Protect to contact appropriate people in the event of a positive test result.

If anyone within your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send your child to school. Report their absence and the reason for this by calling PSA in the morning.