

Principal: Lesley Welsh



23 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Update

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well in these challenging times. As you are aware, rates of Coronavirus across the coast have risen sharply over the last fortnight and we know that there are cases across our school community and beyond. As a school, we have shared information regarding positive cases with Public Health England and the Local Authority and followed their advice and guidance at every stage. There is information attached regarding what a school has to do when a child has symptoms or a positive test for Covid and I hope you find this useful. I have also attached some useful information from NYCC regarding the recent upturn in cases across Scarborough. Please remember that students should not attend school if they, or someone in their household, have any of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

In this situation, please arrange a test and inform us of the results. In order to allow us to respond as swiftly as possible, and to minimise concern and anxiety from the rest of the school community, I would urge you to email us on hello@gps.hlt.academy if the results are received outside office hours or to call school during the working day.

Please remember that work is available online for students who are absent from school for any reason. There is a link on our school website www.georgepindarschool.org to Google Classroom where, after logging in using the school network details, students can access lesson materials for each subject and a number of tasks to complete. We have been impressed that so many Year 10s who are currently self-isolating have worked on Google Classroom and remind them to keep this up over the next week.

For those children who are in school, we are trying to maintain normality as far as possible. We are delighted that the vast majority of students have adapted extremely well to our policies and procedures. Students are arriving at school wearing face coverings and they wear these every time they leave a classroom; this helps to maintain the safety of the entire school community. Behaviour in school has improved significantly. During the course of this academic year, there has been a 75% drop in the number of fixed term exclusions, which is our most serious sanction outside of a permanent exclusion from the school, and there has been a 73% drop in the number of students whose behaviour has meant they have had to be removed from lessons. This is having a huge impact on learning and progress for these students and we hope these improvements continue. It is, however, extremely disappointing when we receive reports from members of the local community about disruption beyond the school day.

George Pindar School
Moor Lane, Eastfield,
Scarborough YO11 3LW
Tel: 01723 582194
Email: hello@gps.hlt.academy



2

As you are aware, one of our values is that we are extremely proud to be 'Pindar' and it saddens me greatly when I receive information about students wearing our uniform whose behaviour does not represent the huge improvements I am seeing on a daily basis inside school. I want our community to be proud of George Pindar School and ensure that the excellent attitudes and behaviour we see in school are portrayed beyond the school gates. Please take a moment to review our behaviour policy which can be found here with your child: <http://georgepindarschool.org/our-policies/> In addition to the reminders about behaviour outside school, can I also urge you to look at the list of prohibited items and note this includes energy drinks and aerosols (deodorant) and remind your child that these must not be brought in to school? Your support is much appreciated as we continue to improve George Pindar School on a daily basis.

Thank you to those parents who have reported issues with the 7a service which passes school on a morning. We have contacted the bus company regarding concerns and would like to remind all families whose children use this service that there are two buses on the 7a route every morning. On occasion, a bus driver may ask students to wait for the second 'unofficial school' bus; we have been promised that this will get to school on time and students will not be punished if they arrive late due to following the driver's advice.

Finally, please remember that school is **closed** to all students **on Monday 30 November and Tuesday 1 December** for planned staff training days. School will reopen to all students, including those Year 10s who are returning from self-isolation, on Wednesday 2 December.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during these strange times and wish you and your families well.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh
Principal