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16th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Amendments to 'bubble' arrangements from January 2021

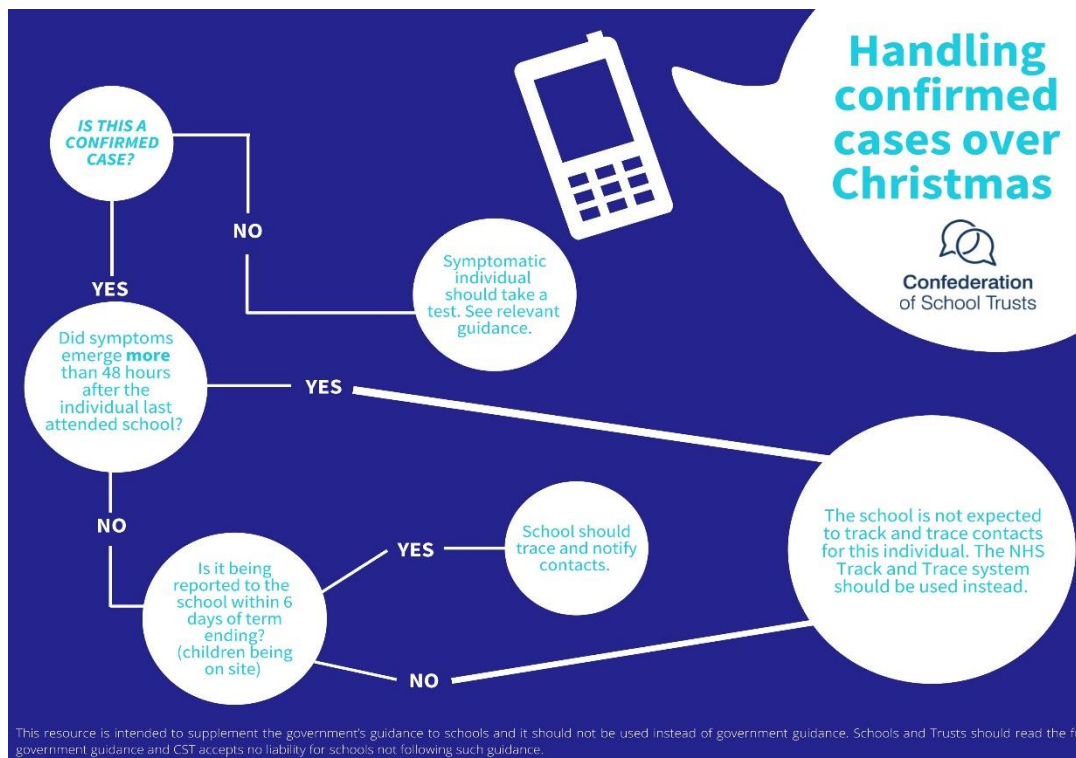
Further to my previous letters to you, the school continues to follow the Department for Education and Public Health England guidance in order to ensure the continued safety of both students and staff. From January 2021 **we will continue to operate the 'bubble' system** to allow us to keep cross year group contact to a minimum whilst still providing your child with a full curriculum offer. **Students will still be expected to wear face coverings whilst in communal areas unless they have a medical exemption** and the **arrangements for break and lunchtimes will be as we have previously communicated to you.**

In order to give all students a 'fresh start' in January and continue to further enhance the range of opportunities available to them we are adjusting the locations of the 'bubbles' within school. **Full details will be provided to all students in an extended morning registration period on Monday 4th January** and the **information below regarding their new form rooms and entry point into the building has been communicated to them in school this week;** staff will be available to support students with ensuring they follow the new routes on the first day back.

| Year 7 | | | Year 8 | | |
|---------|-----------|--|---------|-----------|--|
| Form | Form room | Entry to school | Form | Form room | Entry to school |
| C | Room 27 | From the yard walk around the side of the building and enter via Room 29 door, 7W use external door to room 31 | C | Room 8 | Enter from the yard via the door next to the Finance Office and then up/across main corridor as applicable |
| R | Room 28 | | R | Room 19 | |
| S | Room 26 | | S | Room 7 | |
| T | Room 29 | | T | Room 10 | |
| W | Room 31 | | W | Room 9 | |
| Year 9 | | | Year 10 | | |
| Form | Form room | Entry to school | Form | Form room | Entry to school |
| C | Room 22 | Enter from the yard via the door next to the Design Hub and then along Maths corridor, 9R use external door to room 37 | C | Lab 1 | Enter from the yard via the external doors to Labs 2, 3 and Room 6 |
| R | Room 37 | | R | Lab 2 | |
| S | Room 21 | | S | Lab 4 | |
| T | Room 25 | | T | Lab 3 | |
| W | Room 20 | | W | Room 6 | |
| Year 11 | | | | | |
| Form | Form room | Entry to school | | | |
| C | Room 12 | Enter from the yard via the 'usual' Student Entrance and then along the glass corridor | | | |
| R | Room 14 | | | | |
| S | Room 15 | | | | |
| T | Room 16 | | | | |
| W | Room 17 | | | | |



Information regarding contacting school has already been circulated to all parents/carers in my letter dated 11th December however the image below has been included as a reminder of this information. Please remember that the only point of contact from Friday 18th to Wednesday 23rd December 2020 will be the covid@swiftacademies.org.uk email address and emails will not be read from Thursday 24th December onwards.



All of the latest information regarding the steps the school is taking in light of the coronavirus epidemic can be accessed via the school website.

If you require any additional support with other issues over the Christmas break, then the attached PDF provides an overview of external services which are available along with their contact information.

School uniform

We believe that dress and presentation help to create good personal standards among students, and parents are requested to give their full support to the school in adhering to the range of clothing recommended. We react very strongly against pupils who come to school with incorrect uniform or inappropriate haircuts. **Whilst the school is in a period of winter uniform, shirts must be tucked in at all times and school jumpers must be worn – we will return to school on 4th January in winter uniform and parents/carers will be given a minimum of 2 weeks notice when we are transferring from the winter to the summer uniform.**

Items and colours of clothing are as follows:-



- Trousers must be plain black, standard fit and not be made from denim, corduroy, leather, lycra or other expandable material. Leggings, jeggings, tight trousers, black jeans or ¾ trousers are not permitted. **All pupils should be in trousers as skirts have been removed from the permitted uniform**
- Plain white shirt **not** a T-shirt or blouse
- Maroon Summer Polo Shirt – this is only worn in the Summer term
- V-necked sweater with school logo
- School tie, this must cover the top shirt button (ties other than school ties are not to be worn)
- Black shoes with heels no higher than 4 cm. Shoes should completely cover the foot for health and safety reasons. Trainers and plimsoll shoes are not acceptable and neither are leisure boots such as Rockport, Doc Martins and Ugg boots. Shoes with multi-coloured soles (soles of shoes must be plain black and not have a coloured or white line through them) or uppers are unacceptable. Shoes must be plain black and not have stripes or logos of any kind visible. **Plain black low heeled boots (Chelsea boot style) may also be worn**
- Jewellery - only one stud per **ear lobe** and in no other part of the ear, and one watch. No other jewellery or body piercing is permitted.
- No jewellery is to be worn during PE lessons, this includes recently pierced ears (it is not acceptable to cover them with plasters)
- No coloured or fake nails are permitted. Nails should be of a reasonable length
- Make up must be kept to an absolute bare minimum and must be natural looking. False eyelashes are not permitted
- Coats should be an appropriate outdoor coat - no sweatshirts, hooded tops, cardigans, tracksuit tops or coats made of denim
- Hair must be worn no shorter than a No 2 haircut anywhere on the head and extreme hair dyes/multi coloured hair is not acceptable for any pupil. Hair styles /eyebrows must not have any lines, patterns or symbols showing
- A school bag large enough to carry an A4 file must be carried every day
- Students must attend school with the necessary school equipment on each and every school day – pen, pencil, rubber, calculator, practical equipment where necessary e.g. PE kit, ingredients etc

PE kit

- Maroon sports top with school logo
- Black shorts or black leggings with school logo *please note that leggings other than the school ones are not acceptable*
- Maroon socks
- Black fleece (optional)
- Football boots – football and rugby lessons only

Uniform can be obtained from <https://elizabethsembroidery.morephotos.net/collections> and use the password (hurworth). Please use the link to book appointments or order online. If you are experiencing difficulties sourcing other items of uniform not available from Elizabeth's Embroidery, please let us know and we will try to help.

Where students need to borrow items of uniform over the course of the day please be assured that all items have been thoroughly sanitised between uses.



Mobile phones

Please remember that students are **not** permitted to have a mobile phone with them during the school day. If your child does bring their mobile phone to school, then their phone will be collected in and placed in a plastic bag in their form room during morning registration. It will then be collected for safe storage and returned to them at the end of the school day.

Independent Learning

Independent Learning Tasks at Hurworth in both key stages are based on the concept of retrieval practice and encapsulate how vital it is to ensure students are building a web of understanding, based on the non-negotiable knowledge of each subject. Therefore, our Independent Learning Tasks are not simply appendages but, in fact, are at the very centre of the core knowledge that needs to be deeply rooted within a student's long-term memory.

Our Independent Learning Tasks also reinforce our whole school priority of 'knowing more and remembering more.' At Hurworth, we use the terms: 'unlock' to allow students to retrieve previously learned information; 'key' to highlight the non-negotiable knowledge of a lesson; and 'lock' which enables students to 'lock in' the 'key' knowledge that they have just learned.

In Key Stage 4 for option subjects, students will complete 1 hour of Independent Learning per fortnight. For core subjects they will complete 1 hour per week. The schedule will be determined by the Head of Department in each subject area.

In Key Stage 3 students will be set Independent Learning Tasks in line with an agreed calendar:

SPRING TERM - KS3 ILT calendar 2021

| Half Term 1 | Year 7 core | Year 7 foundation | Total hours | Year 8 core | Year 8 foundation | Total hours | Year 9 core | Year 9 foundation | Total hours |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Week 2 4/1/21 | English (1) | Music (1) | 7.5 hours | Science (1) | Computing (1.5) | 7.5 hours | English (1) | Computing (1.5) | 6.5 hours |
| | Maths (1) | Art (1.5) | | MFL (30 mins) | MFL (30 mins) | | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | |
| Week 1 11/1/21 | Science (1) | Computing (1.5) | 7.5 hours | English (1) | RS (1) | 6.5 hours | Science (1) | Geography (1.5) | 7.5 hours |
| | | MFL (30 mins) | | Maths (1) | PE (1.5) | | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | |
| Week 2 18/1/21 | English (1) | DT (1.5) | 7.5 hours | Science (1) | DT (1.5) | 6.5 hours | English (1) | Music (1) | 7.5 hours |
| | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | | MFL (30 mins) | MFL (30 mins) | | Maths (1) | Art (1.5) | |
| Week 1 25/1/21 | Science (1) | RS (1) | 6.5 hours | English (1) | Geography (1.5) | 7.5 hours | Science (1) | History (1.5) | 7.5 hours |
| | | PE (1.5) | | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | |
| Week 2 1/2/21 | English (1) | History (1.5) | 6.5 hours | Science (1) | Music (1) | 7.5 hours | English (1) | DT (1.5) | 7.5 hours |
| | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | | Art (1.5) | Art (1.5) | | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | |
| Week 1 8/2/21 | Science (1) | Geography (1.5) | 6.5 hours | English (1) | History (1.5) | 7.5 hours | Science (1) | RS (1) | 7.5 hours |
| | | | | Maths (1) | MFL (30 mins) | | Maths (1) | PE (1.5) | |

KS4
Core: 1 hour per week
Options: 1 hour per fortnight



Summer exams for Year 11 students

If your child is in Year 11 then as we have previously communicated to you the Government are still reviewing the exact format of both the GCSE and the Vocational exams for this summer. The 'headlines' from the latest announcement are:

Building on the three-week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation; and
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

The full announcement can be accessed via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summers-exams?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Further information is due to be released at the end of January and we will communicate this to you as soon as it is available.

Finally on behalf of all staff in the school can I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing, happy and healthy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming all students back when we reopen on **Monday 4th January 2021**.

Thank you for your support



Miss N Peaker
Head of School