

Dear Parents and Carers,

Normally in a letter at this time of year, I would highlight a range of the achievements of our students, mention trips to universities, extra-curricular events and guest speakers. This time, our achievement is to have opened the sixth form, to have kept it open, to welcome and settled a wonderful year 12 cohort and to have completed some early entry university applications including Medicine, Oxbridge and scholarship placements abroad. We really look forward to progressing many more applications to university and degree level apprenticeships next term.

We look forward to next half term with some necessary changes: Following further guidance and advice, it will be necessary for sixth form students to wear face coverings in corridors from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. The use of face coverings in the common room, classrooms or study areas will not be required but will remain under review pending further advice. Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully. Staff will be fully be aware of those who may be exempt from wearing face coverings on medical grounds.

From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, we will no longer be able to operate the extended entry and exit windows during the day. Following further safety-based changes throughout the academy, the sixth form entrance gate will open between 8:00-8:30 and then 14:45-15:00 and 16:00-16:05pm. Sanctioned Charter activities will be able to take place with prior arrangement. Extra- ordinary appointments will need to be agreed in advance. Please bear in mind that we are heavily restricted by the current COVID regulations and need to strictly adhere to the entry and exit times to ensure the integrity of the year group bubble system. We will increase study areas within the sixth form bubble and offer a bookable silent study area to increase study space capacity further.

The government recently announced a delay to the summer exams. This will give us a little more revision time in May, which is welcome. We will share the summer exam timetable with students and families as soon as the last few exam dates have been finalised. We wish year 13 the very best for their mock exams in November.

We are now able to offer students a canteen style food outlet in the sixth form bubble which will be open between 10.50 and 11.30. The menu will be limited to hot meals such as pasta, rice and noodle dishes and there will be soup and jacket potatoes with a choice of toppings available. There will be drinks available to purchase but it is still recommended that students bring in food and enough water to last the school day. I can assure you that all Covid-hygiene standards will be followed and all food will be served with biodegradable containers and cutlery.

**Please take note of some points to be aware of:**

- there will be no on-site facility for students to top up lunch cards because the current location of the cash loaders would require students to cross the year group bubbles
- all top ups will need to be made online through Scopay. Please allow sufficient time from when you top up online for the funds to appear on your child's account

- If you need a reminder of how to get into Scopay, information can be viewed on our website: <https://cowesec.org/key-info/parent-portals>
- for those students who have lost their card, a replacement card can be purchased online for £1 through Scopay

I am genuinely delighted to say that we have made it to half term (or almost at the time of writing) without any confirmed cases among students or staff. I would like to say a sincere thank you to all our staff and students for the extraordinary effort that has gone into making this possible, and to all our parents and carers for supporting Cowes Sixth Form.

Yours sincerely



David Sanchez-Brown  
Assistant Principal  
Head of Sixth Form