

Whitehorse Drive
Epsom, Surrey KT18 7NQ
Tel: 01372 720439

Email: info@rosebery.surrey.sch.uk
www.roseberyschool.co.uk



Rosebery School

Excellence. Endeavour. Opportunity.

4 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In the light of the announcement that the country will enter a second lockdown on Thursday 5 November, we are writing to inform you of some changes that we are going to make to the running of the school going forward. We should state that at the time of writing **the Department for Education are yet to update their guidance** for the running of schools during lockdown, however we felt it was important to communicate our carefully considered plans today, with the caveat that we will update you with any important changes that result from the government's advice, once it is finally released to us, in the Rosebery News on Friday.

We are determined to keep the school open for as long as we are able to do so. Clearly the safety of staff and students remains our absolute priority, but we also continue to remain committed to providing the best possible education for each child, despite this very challenging context. We are convinced that school is the best place for our students, both from an academic and a social perspective and that face to face teaching is far superior and advantageous to our students than the remote alternative.

Wearing of masks

We have been fortunate to have had very few COVID-19 cases at Rosebery since reopening fully in September and we believe that Rosebery is a safe place for your child and for our staff. To further mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID, we will expect all students and staff to wear a mask in the corridors and in all indoor communal areas. Ideally these will be reusable masks, and students will be responsible for ensuring that these are worn appropriately and that they will be stored in a sealable bag when removed. Students are welcome to wear their masks in lessons, but this will not be mandatory. It is important that you and your child discuss the way in which masks should be worn and removed and you will find specific guidance on this here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#how-to-wear-a-face-covering>

It is important to emphasise that the wearing of masks does not negate the vital importance of social distancing between students and staff and we will be reminding students of the crucial role they play in keeping everyone safe by following the one way system, wearing their mask and keeping a 2 metre distance from staff at all times.

Should your child be exempt from wearing a mask for medical reasons, please contact your child's Head of Year and we will provide a sunflower label for their lanyard to show that they are not expected to wear a mask.

Head of School: Mr D Lach BA (Hons) NPQH Executive Headteacher: Ms R Allen MA NPQH

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Maintaining good ventilation

The importance of well-ventilated rooms in mitigating the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is now well documented.

We will, therefore, continue to ensure that all classrooms have their doors and windows open, even as the temperatures fall. We believe it is important that students continue to wear their school uniform, but we encourage you to ensure that your child comes to school with the necessary layers to wear should they feel cold during lessons. We would strongly recommend the wearing of a base layer, for example, underneath the school shirt and that school jumpers be worn throughout the week under the blazer.

Accessing learning through Google Classroom

All students need to be able to access their learning from home. Your child will do this through Google Classroom and **it is critical that you establish with your child, as soon as you are able, that they can access Google Classroom and Google Meet from home.** It is important that we are made aware of any families for whom remote learning will present logistical and technical problems now. Please contact your child's Head of Year with any concerns related to this.

Supporting learning for students who are self-isolating when the school is open

At present we have a relatively small number of students who are self-isolating, but who are well. Students in this situation should log into Google Classroom at the beginning of each lesson and where there is a link to join a live streaming of the lesson via Google Meet they should do so, or they should access the resources and activities saved in Google Classroom at the time of the lesson. Parents/carers who are concerned that their child cannot access Google Classroom in this scenario should contact the Head of Year.

Supporting learning for students in the event of a full school closure

Whilst we remain optimistic that we can stay open for the duration of this half term, we must also be pragmatic and prepare for a scenario where schools are also closed and all learning becomes remote.

In the event of a full closure, we will send out more detailed information, however in summary:

- All students will be expected to attend tutor time and lessons between 8.30am and 3.00pm via Google Classroom
- All students will follow their existing timetable and parents/carers will be expected to phone the Absence Line if their child is unable to attend the virtual school on that day for any reason
- Lessons will be delivered via Google Meet and Google Classroom, with live and recorded explanations and live check ins by the teacher during each lesson, as long as staffing levels and circumstances allow
- Resources and activities will be posted on Google Classroom and students will need to access these during each lesson

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Change to the start and end of the school day

In order for a fully remote learning offer to work effectively, it is vital that the timetable is synchronised for all year groups. We have carefully analysed the impact of the current staggered start in the morning and at the end of the school day and believe that with the introduction of mandatory mask wearing we can now revert to a tutor time for all students in Years 7-11 and Year 13 at 8.30am. Current arrangements for Year 12, which mean that students come in for 8.30am on a pre-arranged individual basis, will continue.

Therefore, **Year 10 students will be expected to be in school from 8.30am from Monday 9 November. Year 11 will be engaged in mocks for the next fortnight and, therefore, their tutor time will revert to 8.30am from Monday 23 November.**

We will maintain a slight stagger at the end of the day, so **Years 7-9 will leave the school at 2.50pm from Monday 9 November and Years 10-13 will leave the school at 2.55pm.**

Lunch arrangements

We have been delighted about the way in which the zoning of student has worked at our two breaktimes, and we are very grateful to Cucina for providing food in 6 separate food stations, which has been a significant challenge for our canteen staff. Whilst the zoning will continue, we now believe it is the time to revert to our original breaktime of 20 minutes in the morning and to a longer break at lunchtime of 40 minutes. The food offer at first break will largely be of the 'grab and go' variety, and at lunchtime a much fuller service, including a hot main meal, will be available in all service areas. We have also invested in two very large marquees which will house Year 11 and Year 7 and will mean that all year groups will have a warm and dry place to be at breaktime, whilst maintaining the integrity of the Year bubbles.

We greatly appreciate that this is a very challenging and anxious time for every member of our community. We are doing all we can to maintain a positive, calm and supportive environment for our students, and indeed for our staff, who, whilst determined to be in school, are also understandably concerned about the implications of working during the full lockdown. We could not be prouder of how they wish to place the interests of their students above these anxieties, by supporting our efforts to maintain the best in-school provision as possible.

We sincerely thank you for your continuing patience, empathy and kindness to all members of our community, as our plans evolve to support all our students in response to the ever-changing national context.

Yours sincerely



David Lach
Head of School



Ros Allen
Executive Headteacher

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