

September 2020 letters

24th August 2020



Dear Parent,

We hope you are well and have had an opportunity this summer to spend some quality time with your family. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on our college transport provision for September 2020.

All of our college buses, S1, S2, S3, S4 and S5, will be operating on their normal routes and stops from Thursday 3rd of September. The college is adopting a phased return so the buses will gradually move to their capacity as students in each year group return. First Bus have informed us that students will be able to purchase their ticket in the normal ways. These five buses are for the use of our students only, so unlike any other service which students may use, there will be no members of the public on them.

As a college, we would really appreciate your help in supporting the use of these services as we are financially liable if the number of passengers falls below a figure set by First Bus. We recognise and respect however that parents may wish to use alternative means of transporting their child to and from college. The college will be following published DfE guidance regarding travelling on school buses which is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

Please can you impress on your child that good conduct on their bus is imperative. They must remain in their seat for the duration of the journey and must not touch their face masks at any time. If any students do behave in an unsafe manner, the school will employ its usual behavioural referral systems which may result in a student not being allowed to travel on school buses.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Students must currently wear a face mask at all times whilst travelling on a First Bus.
2. On arrival, students will dispose of their face mask in the bin provided, or place them in their own sealable bag. Students should not touch the front of their face covering during use, or when removing it.
3. Students will be allocated specific seating areas on the bus, so that we can separate year group bubbles as much as possible during the journey.
4. When students exit the bus, they will be asked to use hand sanitiser before leaving the bus bay area.

Please be assured that we will be monitoring the college buses closely on our return in September. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us at college. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey Danny McCormack

Headteacher Deputy Headteacher

[September-2020-Reopening-guidance-for-parents Download](#)

[Risk-assessment-for-full-college-reopening Download](#)

Dear Parent,

After much consultation and consideration the college has decided to make the wearing of face coverings optional from September 1st subject to frequent review. Key to these reviews and a potential decision to make them mandatory will be the rate of transmission in Worcester and surrounding areas. The current transmission rate in Worcester is low hence the decision to make the wearing of face coverings optional.

We are however asking all students to bring a face covering to college each day as an integral part of their normal college equipment along with a plastic ziplock bag to store the face covering in and their own personal bottle of hand sanitiser. Our rationale for this is if students are used to bringing a face covering into college then any change to the college position on face coverings will be more straightforward. It also allows for students to operate out of their "bubble" for short period of times e.g. during interventions or support sessions. Students who travel on a bus to and from school **will have to wear a face covering** until they step off the bus.

In summary the college position is as follows:

When the transmission rate is low, as defined by Worcestershire Public Health, the following applies:

- Students may choose to wear a face covering when moving between lessons or in communal areas.
- Students will be asked to bring a face covering with them each day as part of their normal college equipment .
- Students do not need to wear a mask outdoors.

When the transmission rate is high, as defined by Worcestershire Public Health, the following applies:

- Students must wear a face covering when moving between lessons or in communal areas. Use of a face covering in a lesson by a student should be in response to a specific medical condition.
- Students do not need to wear a face covering when outdoors.

It is important that we all recognise that face coverings are just one of the measures which reduce the transmission of coronavirus. The college has laid out details of these measures in its risk assessment which include:

- Strict hand hygiene protocols
- Enhanced cleaning routines
- Staff maintaining 2 metre distance from students where possible
- No mixing of year groups
- Good ventilation in classrooms
- Ensuring that symptomatic people do not come into college

We must be careful not to create a sense that if students are wearing face coverings then these other measures can be minimised or reduced in any way.

Please be assured that we will continue to keep you updated with the college's position on face coverings. You may find the following website useful in order to monitor local transmission rates <https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/view/matthew-fung/covid-19-report-for-education-providers> As always if you have any concerns about your child and the wearing of face coverings please do not hesitate to get in touch with us so that we can work together towards a solution.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Dear Parent,

I hope this finds you well. We are continuing to monitor and review all the new systems we have put in place since September and I want to inform you of a change in relation to PE.

From Wednesday 16th September, until further notice, we will be asking boys to wear the following on the days they have a PE lesson;

- Black school shoes
- Black socks
- PE shorts under school trousers
- PE shirt
- College jumper

Trainers are to be carried in their bag and can be put on at the start of the lesson along with white sports socks. We will be asking girls to wear the following on the days they have a PE lesson;

- Black school shoes
- Branded college leggings or branded college tracksuit bottoms. Girls can bring shorts to change into or wear them under their college skirt. Girls can also bring their branded college leggings and change into them before their PE lesson
- PE shirt

- College jumper

Trainers are to be carried in their bag along with sports socks.

We have introduced this change in order to ensure that students feel comfortable during their PE lessons whilst striking a balance with normal college uniform. Time spent in the changing rooms will be kept to the minimum. Please note that students are not allowed to wear sports clothing to school which is not in keeping with the college's normal high standards of dress.

As always if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us at college

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey Paul Coward

Headteacher Head of P.E.

Dear Parent/Guardian

I can't believe (and I am sure the same goes for you) how quickly the last 4 years have gone. Our new Year 11 have made a great start to the academic year – they have been positive, responsible and mature – and I am so proud of them.

My repeated message to students over the last 4 years has been that success comes from continued hard work and perseverance, and in this most important of years this has never been more crucial.

As it is the start of a new academic year, can I please draw your attention to the following reminders;

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support of the uniform policy. Our uniform is a way of student showing their pride in belonging to our College community and is linked to our high expectations across all aspects of College life. If you have any issues with the supply of school uniform, please inform us to make us aware. Full details of uniform expectations are on the College website and page 10 of the student planner.

Mobile Phones

Students are reminded that mobile phones should not be used in College. They should be turned off and placed in their bags before they arrive at College. Any student who is found to be using a mobile phone during the College day will have it confiscated. Please contact the school office if you need to get a message to your child during the College day.

Masks, Sanitiser and Equipment

Please can I remind you that students should be using masks on College buses and each student must bring a mask and a bag to store it in each day. Students should also have their own personal bottle of sanitiser to use during the College day, and there are also numerous sanitising stations around the College building. For the foreseeable future, students will not be allowed to share equipment, so it is very important that they have their own supply of stationery and equipment.

Here are some important dates for this term, which are provisional - you will be kept informed of any update to these via the College App.

24th September – Virtual Open Evening

13th October – Curriculum Planning Afternoon (Students leave at 1.35pm)

22nd October - Worcester Sixth Form College Open Event – register on the Sixth form website for tickets 23rd

October – Students finish for half term

2nd November – Students return

w/c November 9th - Mock exams

10th December – Year 11 Parents Evening

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns – thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Lindsay Jones
Head of Year 11

Dear Parent,

I hope that you and your family are well and have managed to enjoy your time together over the most unusual of summer breaks. I have enjoyed seeing your children return after such a long time and having the opportunity to catch up with them.

As your child enters year 10, they will continue their studies in their chosen options and GCSE courses have officially begun. The priority is to safeguard and promote your child's mental health and to allow them to adjust to the new routines within the College. I understand that some students (and parents) may have some anxieties and worries about the return to College and I would signpost you to the various letters and documents that have been shared by Mr McClarey regarding the measures that have been put in place to keep all members of our College community safe. However, please do not hesitate to contact the College if you have any questions or concerns.

The second priority is to continue to work with you and your child to ensure that they reach their full potential and that they are prepared for the next step of their education when they leave our College. The closure of the College to the majority of students has meant that some areas of the curriculum will need to be revisited, and we will be working hard to identify and address any areas for development. The key message for students is that they must make the most of every minute of every lesson. There are some small changes and tweaks that they could make that I feel would offer some "quick wins". These include

1. Organisation and preparation – students should aim to be fully prepared for every lesson by having the correct books, equipment (including green pens and sanitiser) and having completed all homework to the best of their ability.
2. A healthy sleep schedule and diet so that they are well rested and fuelled for every school day. Please continue to monitor your child's use of social media and please let us know of any concerns.

As it is the start of a new academic year, can I please draw your attention to the following reminders;

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support of the uniform policy. Our uniform is a way of student showing their pride in belonging to our College community and is linked to our high expectations across all aspects of College life. If you have any issues with the supply of school uniform, please inform us to make us aware. Please can I also remind you that all coats are to be navy or black with no large logos as the weather becomes increasingly unsettled.

Mobile Phones

Students are reminded that mobile phones should not be used in College. They should be turned off and placed in their bags before they arrive at College. Any student who is found to be using a mobile phone during the College day will have it confiscated. Please contact the school office if you need to get a message to your child during the College day.

Masks, Sanitiser and Equipment

Please can I remind you that students should be using masks on College buses and each student must bring a mask and a bag to store it in each day. Students should also have their own personal bottle of sanitiser to use during the College day, and there are also numerous sanitising stations around the College building. For the foreseeable future, students will not be allowed to share equipment, so it is very important that they have their own supply of stationery and a scientific calculator. Please let us know if you have any difficulties in procuring these items.

Please note that all our College policies are available on our College website and as always, we appreciate your support of these.

Tutor group changes

The following form groups will have new form tutors for this academic year.

Mrs McClarey and Mrs Fearn will co-tutor 10 Clitherow.

Mr Jauncey will tutor 10 Line.

As always, the school year is very busy with a large variety of events planned. However, in the current climate, it may be necessary to cancel or amend these events and as such the following dates are provisional –

w/c Monday 21st September – Year 10 Recall Test Week

24th September – Virtual Open Evening
9th October – Year 10 English Literature Exam Mock 1
13th October – Curriculum Planning Afternoon (Students leave at 1.35pm)
23rd October – Students finish for half term
2nd November – Students return

Finally, I am looking forward to another successful year of working with you and your child. As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other member of College staff if you have any questions or concerns with any aspect of College life.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C M Taylor
Head of Year 10

September 2020

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased finally to be able to welcome Year 9 students back to College after our long break. I hope that this letter finds you and your family well: it has been a strange and difficult period for us all but hopefully we are now on the way back to some normality.

As I would have expected, knowing my year group as I do, Year 9 students have returned to college with enthusiasm and have been well prepared to resume their studies. I have been very pleased with their readiness to observe the Covid safety measures we have had to put in place. Students' uniform is, as usual, very good. You can imagine that it is even more important than usual that you contact us quickly if your child appears to be ill and this needs to be through the usual attendance line. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first instance. You may already be aware that we have had some changes to tutors for the Year 9 team so they are listed below:

9 Ashley - Mr Hewitt
9 Clitherow - Mrs Booth and Mrs White
9 Jones - Mrs Barratt and Mrs Wones
9 Line - Mrs Strauss and Ms Morris
9 Pritchard - Mr Bryant
9 Sutton - Mr James
9 Wall - Ms Davies.

You will be aware that this is the year when your child will choose their GCSE Options Pathway and some parents have already been in contact to ask about the process. There will be further information coming out in the coming weeks about how we will do this.

Key dates for Year 9 this term:

W/b 21st September - Recall tests in all subjects.

Tuesday 13th October - Teacher Training and Planning afternoon - students leave at 1.35pm. **W/b**

26th October - Half Term

Wednesday 18th November - Teacher Training and Planning afternoon - students leave at 1.35pm.

Friday 27th November - TED

Thursday 3rd December - Year 9 Parents' Evening - this is unlikely to take place and we will inform you of alternative arrangements at a later date.

Later this half term we will be publishing an online replacement for the Expectations Evenings which would have taken place this term, giving information on how to support your child's progress this year. Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns regarding your child's welfare. The best way to reach me is by e mail on pjp10@blessededward.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Ms Pratty
Head of Year 9

September 2020

Dear Parent/guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome back our new Year 8 students to the college after a challenging recent period for them due to lockdown. They have made a successful start to the new academic year, rapidly embracing our new social distancing measures, and I hope that they are now feeling settled in the college environment. It is a pleasure to see students looking so smart and enthusiastic, ready for the new challenges that lie ahead in Year 8. Please do ensure that students are supplied with sanitiser and face masks as per the guidance sent out by Mr McClarey earlier this term.

Year 8 Form Tutors and e mail addresses are as follows:

Mr Xia - 8 Ashley - cxia@blessededward.co.uk

Mrs Hodgetts - 8 Clitherow - beojh@blessededward.co.uk

Mr Coward - 8 Jones - pc@blessededward.co.uk

Mrs Taylor/Mrs McFarland - 8 Line – hpt2@blessededward.co.uk/ kmcfarland@blessededward.co.uk

Mrs Ford/Mrs Guppy - 8 Prichard - sford@blessededward.co.uk/ sguppy@blessededward.co.uk

Mrs Thomas/Mrs Dudley - 8 Sutton - kthomas@blessededward.co.uk/ rdudley@blessededward.co.uk

Mrs Sparey - 8 Wall - nsparey@blessededward.co.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact form tutors or myself if you have any concerns about your son or daughter. As well as e mail you can also communicate with your child's tutor using the student planner which should be checked and signed by both you and the tutor on a weekly basis. I would also encourage you to download the college's MyEd app if you have not already done so as this app contains lot of useful information and has now become the primary method of communication from college to parents.

Just a few dates for your diary. October half term will start on Friday October 23rd - students return on Monday November 2nd - and the Christmas break begins on Friday December 18th.

If you have any queries regarding uniform, the policy is on the parents section of the website. Could I also ask that you ensure your child's belongings have their name in them so that they can be identified if they are sent to Pupil Reception. If your child brings a mobile phone to College for use before or after school it is their responsibility to ensure that it is switched off and out of sight on school grounds during the school day. If your child is unable to attend College for any reason please contact the office before College begins to inform your child's Tutor of their absence on 01905 352245 or again, use the MyEd app.

I look forward to working together with you over the forthcoming year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K.Dobson
Head of Year 8

September 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a pleasure welcoming so many new faces to Blessed's this last week after all having a long break from school. The Year 7 pupils have been doing really well navigating around the school site and adapting to the necessary Covid safety measures we have put in place. We fully understand that it has been a difficult transition and not one that we had wanted for our new students, but they have coped incredibly well this week.

Can I bring to your attention the 'MyEd' app that is available as part of our parentmail email system. We have already been sending messages via the app so if you haven't already downloaded it, please feel free as it is an excellent form of communication between us and parents. The app can be downloaded here <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/> I hope that you received the message I sent home yesterday about the IT issues that a few pupils have been having. We are aware as a staff that some Year 7s are finding it hard to login and join google classrooms. Over the next few weeks tutors and I will be supporting individuals to ensure they are all able to access homework online.

You may already be aware of your child's tutor for the Year 7, but here is a list of the Year 7 team:

7 Ashley - Mr Ellis
7 Clitherow - Miss Case
7 Jones - Mr Robinson
7 Line - Miss Wallace
7 Pritchard - Mr Winwood
7 Sutton - Mr Ebbage
7 Wall - Mr Williams

The tutors and I will be working together to support your child and to help maintain the excellent attendance, punctuality and uniform that Year 7s have shown us this week. Regular attendance is crucial to learning and when possible 97% or above is what is expected to obtain progress in all subjects so please continue to ensure that your child is attending each day. You can imagine that it is even more important than usual that you contact us quickly if your child appears to be ill and this needs to be through the usual attendance line.

Year 7 uniform has been incredibly smart this week. A summary of the uniform policy is in the student planner and a more detailed version is available on the website. We would urge you to read this and contact us if you have any queries. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring uniform is of a high standard.

I would like to make you aware of our school rules regarding mobile phones; phones may be brought into college but they must be turned off when a student enters the college and can be turned back on when off the school premises. They cannot be used in college during the day unless under the direct instruction of a teacher, for learning purposes. When used without permission phones will be confiscated and may be returned at the end of the day. If it is a second offence, the phone will be confiscated and maybe kept for up to 3 days or returned directly to a parent. Please could you discuss this with your child so they are fully aware and can avoid a confiscation.

Key dates for Year 7 this term:

Tuesday 13th October - Teacher Training and Planning afternoon - students leave at 1.35pm. W/b

26th October - Half Term

Wednesday 18th November- Teacher Training and Planning afternoon - students leave at 1.35pm.

Wednesday 4th November - Year 7 Parents' Evening - this is unlikely to take place and we will inform you of alternative arrangements at a later date.

Friday 27th November - Teacher Training Day

Please pass on our thanks to your child for their great start to Year 7. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's tutor or you can contact me on njp30@blessededward.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Pritchard
Head of Year 7

September 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope that your child has settled back into college life. I have been very impressed with the conduct of our students and the way they have quickly adapted to the new routines and changes we have made to the college day. We are always monitoring and reviewing these routines and there are a few things I would like to ask for your support with.

Students are not permitted on the college site before 8.30a.m. Please ensure your child arrives between 8.30am-8.45a.m. We have also introduced a staggered finish to the day in order to keep year group bubbles separate.

Year 7 finish at 3.12p.m.
Year 8 finish at 3.14p.m.
Year 9 finish at 3.16p.m.
Year 10 finish at 3.18p.m.
Year 11 finish at 3.20p.m.

We are asking students to leave the college site immediately and not loiter in corridors. Similarly, we are asking students to not congregate by the gate on Timberdine Avenue. If you are picking your child up by car you may wish to consider where you park as Timberdine Avenue is a very busy thoroughfare at the end of the college day. Can I also please ask that we continue to be mindful of local residents if we are parking on Timberdine Avenue. We have a good relationship with our neighbours, but they occasionally get frustrated if people are not parking or driving responsibly.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey
Headteacher

16th September 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope this finds you and your family well. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on how we will proceed in the event of any suspected and confirmed cases of covid 19 in the college. At the time of writing there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students or staff at the college.

Attendance has been good and is currently at 96.4%. Thank you for letting us know if your child is absent and the reasons for that absence. If your child has any coronavirus symptoms they must stay at home and get tested. I appreciate that there are significant issues with this process at the moment. If someone in your household develops symptoms your child must also remain at home until that person has been tested. If the test is negative your child can return to college. We are following DfE guidance by only recommending children get a test if they develop symptoms. This is to protect the capacity of the NHS test and trace system. Children with no symptoms can only be tested in specific circumstances and on the recommendation of public health experts

If a child displays any covid related symptoms while in college they will immediately be supported and taken to a supervised area where they cannot come into contact with others. Arrangements will be made so that they can get home safely. PPE will be worn by staff caring for the student while they wait to be collected. Please note that other students who may have come into contact with this suspected case will not need to self isolate unless a positive test is confirmed. The college will then be guided by the Local Outbreak Response Team and communicate their advice to parents.

If your child is absent with COVID-19 related symptoms or because a member of their household has symptoms they will be able to keep up with their studies through their subject related Google classrooms. Teachers will upload resources to these classrooms based on the work your child would have completed if in college.

If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in the college, we will contact the Worcestershire County Council Local Outbreak Response Team. We will then await contact from Public Health England who will work with us to identify direct and close contacts of the positive case. A risk assessment will be carried out and we will be advised which contacts should self-isolate and what other actions we need to take. We will contact the relevant parents in this instance. Feedback from other schools who have had a case of COVID-19 suggests that this process is time consuming but please be assured that we will endeavour to keep all parents updated as information becomes available. Please note that we will not be sharing the name of any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19.

An outbreak in a school is defined as two or more confirmed cases. In this instance we would again liaise with the Local Outbreak Response Team and Public Health England. We would follow their advice and guidance and communicate this to parents.

Please be assured that the college is well advanced in its plans for any switch to remote learning. It is worth checking that your child is able to access all of their Google classrooms as these are already operating and being used by teachers to set homework and by students to hand in assignments. The new college remote learning schedule will more closely resemble a typical college day with individual teachers being responsible for their own classes. Remote learning will be a mix of live lessons, pre recorded lessons and tasks completed through Google Classroom. Further information on the expectations for schools in the event of students having to learn at home can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions>

As always please do not hesitate to contact us here at the college if you have any questions or concerns related to your child.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

21st September 2020

Dear Parent

RE: Ski Trip to Bormio, Italy, 15th December 2021 – 21st December 2021

It is the aim of the school not only to encourage your child in their academic studies, but also to develop their social skills and physical fitness as well as to enable them to experience environments outside their normal day to day lives.

Due to the current circumstances we have had to defer our ski trip in December 2020 to the following year. Our current Year 11 students will sadly not be able to come with us as they will have left the college. This means we are able to offer 16 places to students in Years 7 to 10. The trip will be to Bormio in Italy from 15th December – 21st December 2021.

The trip will be organised through 'Ski and Sport Travel Group', a company which specialises in organising school ski and sports trips abroad.

The cost is £1060, which will include the following:

- Cost of transfers to and from UK airport
- Return flights
- Coach transfers in Italy
- 6 nights full board accommodation (midday meal on the mountain)
- 5 days ski pass
- 5 days x 5 hours lessons from fully qualified ski instructors
- Equipment hire- skis/boots/poles/helmets
- Representative in resort

Not included in the cost:

- Drinks, except with breakfast (water is placed on tables for lunch and evening meals) •
- Pocket money
- Specialist clothing and ski wear (although the latter can be arranged through Ski and Sport Travel on the presentation evening for parents closer to the trip)
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WEARING OF SAFETY HELMETS IS NOW COMPULSORY BY ITALIAN LAW FOR CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF 14. For the safety of the students I am making it compulsory for all students to wear a safety helmet at all times whilst on the slopes.

This is a fantastic opportunity for your son/daughter to experience a well organised and structured trip with leading tour operators, being fully staffed by Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College staff at all times.

Places are limited to 16 students and if you decide you would like your child to take part in this amazing opportunity a **non-refundable deposit of £250** is required on the opening date of 1st October at 11:10am, with a further 10 payments of £81 per month or a mid-payment of £500 by 1st June 2021 with the final payment no later than 28th September 2021. We would strongly recommend that you use 'ParentPay' for these monthly installments as it is the most convenient method of payment.

Details of the resort can be found on www.bormioski.eu/en/. A presentation for parents and students will be organised before the trip to give you more details. If you have any further questions or queries then please do not hesitate to contact me beokma@blessededward.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Miss Mason
Assistant Head Teacher

A copy of the letter and a reply slip is now available from Pupil Reception, the PE Office or Miss Mason's office. Alternatively you can print this reply slip at home.

RE: Ski Trip to Bormio, Italy, 15th December 2021 – 21st December 2021

Please return to the finance office ASAP

I wish for Form.....to go on the Ski Trip to Bormio, Italy 15th-21st December 2021.

I enclose a cheque/cash for £250. I understand that this is a non-refundable deposit. Cheques should be made payable to **Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College**. I agree to keep up to date with the payments and ensure the final balance is paid by 28th September 2021.

Signed..... (Parent)(email address)

22nd September 2020

Dear Parent

A reminder that on Tuesday 13th October the college will close at 1.35pm for a staff curriculum planning afternoon. Staff will be using this time to ensure that any plans for remote learning are up to date and also how students are progressing since their return to college. Buses have been arranged for this earlier collection time.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey
Headteacher

22nd September 2020

Dear Parent,

I am very pleased to report that our students are continuing to act responsibly and are adapting well to their new daily routines and processes. As you are aware face coverings are currently optional at the college, however from Wednesday 23rd September we are going to be adapting our college approach on face coverings in certain subjects which have a “practical work” element in them.

When students are taking part in practical work where there is a higher than normal risk of accidents happening which would require teacher intervention we will be asking students to wear face coverings. Students will wear the face covering solely for the duration of the practical work. This will apply in Science lessons and Design and Technology lessons. Not all practical work in these subjects will require a face covering to be worn so it will be a decision made by the class teacher as part of their normal risk assessment planning.

The rationale for this decision is to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission if staff have to get close to students in order to assist them in the event of an accident. Examples of where a student would be asked to wear a mask include when they have to handle hot equipment or if they are doing large scale experiments where the volume of corrosive chemicals being used is relatively high.

The college risk assessment, which is available on the college website, has been updated to include this change. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the college if you have any questions or wish to know more about this change.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey
Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to update you on the most recent changes Eduqas have made to the GCSE English Literature syllabus. I am pleased to say that Year 11 will benefit from the changes made to this year’s literature exam papers. The changes are as follows:

Component 1 is two hours long. This paper is compulsory and pupils must answer both sections on *A Merchant of Venice* and *An Inspector Calls*.

Component 2 is also two hours long and students can choose two out of three sections to answer; poetry anthology, unseen poetry and *A Christmas Carol*.

The college have decided that students must answer the unseen poetry question and *A Christmas Carol* in Component 2. Students will be able to concentrate on the actual skill of approaching unseen poetry rather than attempting to memorise 18 poems from the anthology. The decision to drop the poetry anthology question has been well received by students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reassure you that Year 11 are on track with their learning in English. This is because all the GCSE Literature set texts were studied in-depth in Year 10 as planned, and now just require revising. At present Year 11 are completing the Language syllabus and have returned to college with a positive attitude.

More information about the exam and syllabus can be found on the Eduqas GCSE English Literature webpage:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-gcse/?sub_nav_level=coursematerials#tab_resources

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jhall

Head of English

23rd September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to inform you about the most recent changes Eduqas have made to the GCSE English Literature syllabus and the college's decision to enter Year 10 for their Literature exam this year.

Year 10 have almost completed the entire English Literature syllabus and are in a strong position to perform well in the exam if taken this year. Knowledge and skills are fresh and they have spent much of year 9 preparing for this. Furthermore the exam board has reduced the amount of content students have to learn and changed the layout and timings of the papers which will further advantage our students.

This academic year they will no longer be required to memorise the 18 studied anthology poems and instead can concentrate on the actual skill of approaching the unseen poetry. The changes to the syllabus are as follows:

Component 1 is two hours long. This paper is compulsory and pupils must answer both sections on *A Merchant of Venice* and *An Inspector Calls*.

Component 2 is also two hours long and students can choose two out of three sections to answer; poetry anthology, unseen poetry and *A Christmas Carol*.

There are many advantages to your child sitting the exam in Year 10. It allows them to focus on English Language in Year 11 and as a consequence reduces pressure in terms of revision when they are doing exams in other subjects.

Year 10 have returned to college with a positive attitude to learning and with consistent effort and hard work they could possibly benefit from fair and accurate centre-assessed grades this academic year.

On Friday 9th October Year 10 will sit their very first mock exam which is a two and a half hour exam on *An Inspector Calls*, *A Christmas Carol* and unseen poetry.

More information about the exam and syllabus can be found on the Eduqas GCSE English Literature webpage:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-gcse/?sub_nav_level=course materials#tab_resources

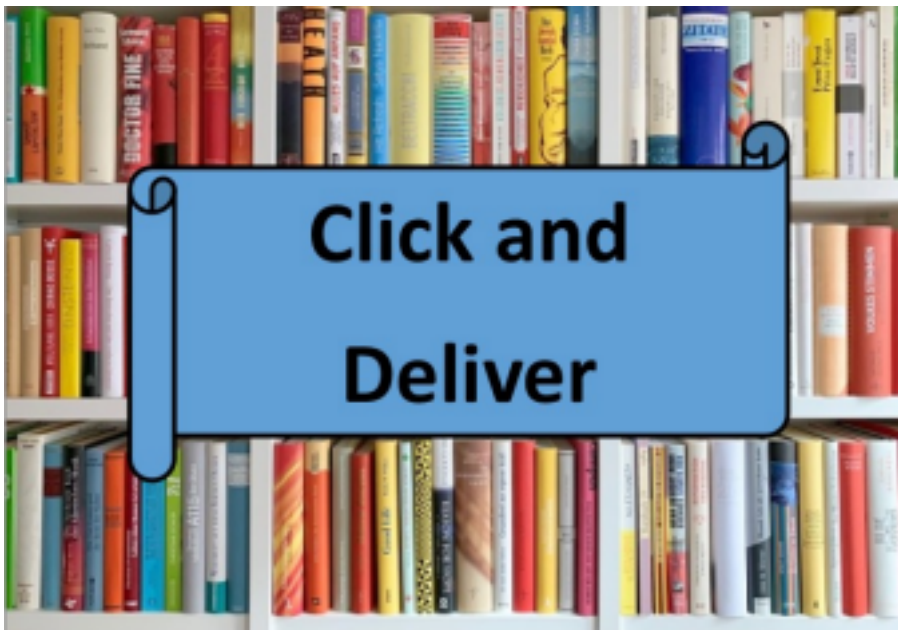
Yours Sincerely

Mrs Jhall
Head of English

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