

5th November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Following the release of the Government's guidance for schools yesterday I am writing to further update you on the COVID-19 arrangements for Brymore.

Face Masks

The Government guidance for wearing a face mask in schools is that all schools now need to insist on face masks at certain times which is the advice that was given to schools in Tier 3 areas previously. Brymore had already been following this advice and therefore there will be no changes to the expectations for boys or staff in the wearing of face masks. They will continue to need to wear face masks as outlined in previous letters.

After School Activities - Supporting Parents

The Government states that after-school activities should only occur where there is a need to support parents who may have work commitments or are actively looking for work. I am well aware that many parents will have work commitments based around the understanding that boys can stay on at Brymore until 5.15 pm, without any additional charge, and take part in the various activities we have on offer. At these times of economic uncertainty and in recognition that these are challenging times for many of you, we intend to continue the after-school clubs, not only as a benefit to the boys but to support you as parents in these difficult times.

One of the measures that has been in place since September is that where possible, we are keeping windows and doors open during lessons and assembly time. As the weather becomes colder, I am aware of the need to balance keeping the boys warm and protecting them from the spread of the virus. I am, therefore, allowing boys to wear coats in lessons should they wish and I am not insisting that this needs to be a Brymore coat, as I do not want to put additional financial strain on parents at this time.

Sporting and Physical Education

We will continue to follow the National Governing Body guidance for schools for each individual team sport and therefore, rugby will continue in a modified form. Government have made it clear that they want schools to continue to keep boys fit and active and therefore we are going to continue with the running of Chads. Chads will be run on the school grounds and boys will be set off at intervals so that they remain in their year groups bubbles. Government made it clear that activities, such as "active miles" which is where schools encourage students to walk or run a mile every day, should be encouraged, which is why we have decided to continue with Chads. Please note that Chads and all extra-curricular activities are voluntary.

The other arrangements that have been communicated previously will remain in place as it is clear that these arrangements, on the whole, met the new Government guidelines as we have now moved into lockdown.

Yet again, I wish to thank you for your continued support and please, if you have any individual concerns then do not hesitate to contact the school where we will do our best to help you.

Yours faithfully

Mark Thomas
Headteacher
Brymore Academy