

Principal: Emma Robins



23 October 2020

Dear parent/carer

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of our first half term of the year. It has been very different to other autumn half terms with our year groups in bubbles and all lessons delivered within those bubbles. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students on the way they have adapted to the 'new normal'. They have been exemplary and we are extremely proud of what they have achieved this half term.

Whilst most students wear their school uniform well, we have noticed that some are not as smart as others are. We expect all students to wear their uniform in line with our policy. Full details are on our website: <https://grahamschool.org/uniform/> If you have any queries about school uniform please contact the relevant Head of Year for your child.

As you already know, the Hope Learning Trust has determined that face coverings are essential in all corridors and communal areas of our school. We have worked very hard to enforce this at school and I am pleased to say that we now have the vast majority of students wearing a face covering as we expect. We request that all students wear a face covering when they enter school and whenever they are in corridors or communal areas. To date, we have been distributing a reusable face covering to any student arriving at school without one. We expect them to reuse that face covering, rather than arrive again the following day asking for another one. In order to emphasise the importance of bringing a face covering to school, after the half term break any student arriving without one will be given an E code in their planner. Three E codes will result in a detention after school. A face covering is part of the equipment we expect students to bring to school with them. Furthermore, although students arrive at school with a face covering, too many students remove these in corridors or in communal areas, thereby endangering the safety and security of the school and wider community. In discussion with Hope Learning Trust, we have agreed that children seen in corridors or communal areas during the school day without a face covering will be given an E code. The desire is not to punish children rather to protect our school community and to minimise the risk of transmission of Coronavirus. This will help children and staff to stay safe and well, so that we can all remain in school.

As stated previously, if you believe that your child should be exempt from wearing a face covering in school please let us know and we will ensure they have a pass, which they can show to staff who might challenge them. They can also wear a sunflower lanyard to indicate that they are exempt.

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Finally, with regard to Covid 19, it is important that we are aware of any new cases within our school community during the holidays. Should you need to report that any student has tested positive for the virus please email: covid@gra.hlt.academy leaving your contact details and we will get in touch, if necessary. Should we need to contact anyone who has been in close contact with a confirmed positive case we will use our usual email and text communication methods.

I would like to remind you that Google Classroom is our remote learning platform, which we use to set work for any students who are absent for school because they have to self-isolate. This ensures that students can continue to access learning whilst at home. We also routinely use Sam Learning and Hegarty Maths as well as directing students to other useful resources such as BBC Bitesize and GCSE Pod. Full instructions for accessing our remote learning are on our website: <https://grahamschool.org/remote-learning/> . Please contact subject teachers directly if you have any queries around remote learning.

You may recall that earlier in the term, we wrote to you seeking parent governor to join our governing body. If you are interested in this opportunity, or would like more information, please contact me through hello@gra.hlt.academy . We are keen to have parental representation on our governing body and I would be happy to discuss it with anyone who is interested.

Please look out for our half-termly newsletter, 'Graham Gazette', which should arrive in your email in box at the end of term. For our new parents this is our half-termly newsletter, which gives you a taste of what has been happening in school this half term. It also has useful information to support you and your child. I hope you enjoy it; please share it with family and friends!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful half term and to thank you again for your continued support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Robins', enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

Emma Robins
Principal