Dear Parents and Carers 9th September 2020

Today we were delighted to welcome back into school Year 8 as well as our new Year 7.  A big thanks goes to our students and parents and carers for preparing them well by adhering to our safety rules. This fills us with an optimism for how we can thrive through the challenge of reopening safely with other years tomorrow.  We are however, noticing some things that we can improve together, so please share with your child the following:

Please remind your child that it is their responsibility to wash their hands regularly and use the antibac pumps we have around school whenever they touch anything.  You child should wash their hands/antibac on entry to the dining room before purchasing food and then again after going through the tills.

The dining room must be a very controlled area.  To prevent the need for long queues at lunch times we are seating students in the dining room prior to purchasing their food.  It is important that students don’t come to take a seat or try to queue for the dining room until the correct year group is showing in the window and they are authorised to do so.  Please remind them to wear their mask on corridors/when entering the dining room and purchasing food and to keep their nose covered.

Feeding 1000 young people safely is a challenge and is taking longer than normal as we antibac each dining area in between students. Our new Canteen provider Hutchinsons have done a tremendous job in challenging times.  Please remind your child that they can buy food at the pod during lunchtime by queueing in the socially distant outside area if they wish to avoid waiting. It is vitally important that students place all their litter in the bins provided so that staff are not vulnerable as they pick up others’ litter.

Today we as we made some headway in safe school opening we were filled with hope, but we were reminded of the need to continue to be cautious as the latest numbers of coronavirus cases in Bolton continue to soar. The Government have introduced stricter lockdown measures in Bolton but schools are asked to continue to open for all students.  Please see the communication from Bernie Brown (Director of People) attached for more information.

To slow the spread of the virus, and protect the most vulnerable residents, the following additional restrictions are now in place in Bolton:

* All hospitality for food and drink (restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs) will be restricted to takeaway only
* Late night restriction of operating hours meaning all venues, including takeaways, will be required to close between from 10pm to 5am
* Ban on mixing outside households in public outdoor settings will be enforceable by law

Please note that these restrictions do not affect education settings. Schools will remain open for children and young people in Bolton. The restrictions will be under constant review with the government on an on-going basis.

Senior and middle leaders in school have plans ready on standby by if ‘tier 2’ was to be introduced.  This would be where school would only be open for some students at any one time on a rota basis.  We want to avoid this, so please let’s all do our part in adhering to these safety guidelines and keep each other safe.

Take care in these uncertain times as we stand together to bring a sense of normality back in the lives of our young people.

God Bless!

*Tony McCabe*

*Headteacher*