

January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter into our second week of guided home learning and the National Lockdown I am writing to thank you for all your continued support and positive messages last week as we navigated yet another new set of government guidance. The guidance has been reviewed again this weekend following the alarming infection and death rates throughout the country. **The stay at home message to save lives is now even stronger.**

In order to reduce the numbers of students mixing in schools, **the government are now requesting critical key workers to only send their children to school if they are unable to work from home and/or make other arrangements for their children. If critical workers are working from home or have another adult at home or in their childcare bubble, they should not be sending their children to school.**

Rates on Wirral yesterday were 905 per 100,000 and in Claughton South and Oxtown North 1023 per 100,000. I therefore appeal to our critical worker carers and parents to keep their daughters at home, if physically possible, to help keep our school environment as safe as we can. Due to these extremely high infection rates, we must consider how to reduce the numbers of children and staff in school at any one time. We have over 150 students in the Junior School alone wanting to attend, meaning all staff are also currently in the Junior School - this puts everyone at risk. We will therefore be exploring alternative solutions to how we can offer places to critical key workers to reduce numbers and **will write to parents and carers of children currently in school (Juniors and Seniors) separately about this today, so that changes can be made.**

We will continue to support all those vulnerable students and children of critical workers who have no alternative, but to attend school. It is a requirement to wear a face covering at all times for girls in the Senior School. If any Junior School parents wish their daughters to wear a face covering while attending school during this time, we would support this.

I also wanted to outline some basic expectations to ensure the girls can work to their full potential at home in the current climate.

Please continue to inform us of any positive Covid-19 cases. I still have to report each school Covid-19 positive case to the Wirral Local Public Health team, whether the girls are physically in school or not. I recorded 5 last week. Please also let school know if your daughter is unwell and unable to attend her online lessons. We are monitoring attendance and engagement and if we have information about an illness preventing her from completing her online lessons, then this will help avoid unnecessary phone calls home.

### **Senior School Expectations**

**Birkenhead High School Academy**  
Principal: Mrs Rebecca Mahony BA Hons NPQH  
86 Devonshire Place, Prenton, Merseyside CH43 1TY  
Website: [www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net](http://www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net)

**GDST Academy Trust is a Limited Company**  
Registered in England No. 6000347  
Registered Office. 10 Bressenden Place,  
London SW1E 5DH

Senior School Tel: 0151 652 5777 Fax: 0151 670 0639  
Junior School Tel: 0151 652 1740 Fax: 0151 670 0639

Part of the GDST network [www.gdst.net](http://www.gdst.net)



All girls are expected to follow their normal timetable and in Years 9 to 13 girls should attend all their live online lessons. When appropriate to the curriculum needs, some lessons may be pre-recorded or different work set. To ensure registers can be taken and girls can fully engage in the lessons, cameras should be switched on when the teacher requires this as part of the lesson. Girls should always be dressed appropriately. We do not expect them to wear their uniform as some schools are insisting. In Years 7 and 8 girls should also follow their timetables and complete the work set for them on Firefly or Google Classroom. We will review this process and keep you posted of any refinements to the setting of work. We will also make welfare checks to support the girls via their form tutor and/or Progress Leader

Key worker and vulnerable students attending the Senior School will also follow this regime of online learning under supervision.

### **Junior School Expectations**

For all pupils at home learning remotely, work will be set on Google Classroom for pupils in Years 1 to 6 and Tapestry for Reception pupils.

In Years 1-6 there will be a daily English, Phonics/Spelling and maths activity. Across the week, there will be some recorded elements to watch in terms of either your teacher explaining a maths concept or English reading task etc or White Rose maths videos or Oak Academy videos. All other subjects will follow the Oak Academy resources (on their website) which your teacher will guide you to select from.

As all our teachers are in school teaching the key worker and vulnerable pupils (the same content as online learning), feedback/responses to tasks submitted will not be as immediate as it was in the summer. However, feedback/acknowledgment of tasks will be given at some point across the week. All pupils at home are expected to engage with the work set on Goggle Classroom; teachers will be monitoring pupils' engagement and making phone calls home to support as needed.

### **External Assessments**

**We now know that SATs, GCSE and A Level examinations will not take place, however no details regarding the use of any teacher assessments have been published or whether there will be actual exam based assessments set by the examination boards and Ofqual for school to use, therefore the important message to all of these students is to keep working hard in all their subjects, as all work could count as evidence towards their final grade or assessment to take!**

Finally, please continue to share any good news stories with me as the virtual assemblies start up again. We have an incredible school community and should be proud of all we can achieve by working together.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if your daughter needs extra support.

Thank you again.

Yours faithfully

**Rebecca Mahony**  
**Principal**