



Headteacher: Niall Smith M.A. (Cantab), N.P.Q.H.

Deputy Headteachers: Brian Burns B.A. (Hons), N.P.Q.H. — Craig Wicking B.Sc. (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Updated Arrangements for the Autumn Term 2020**

I am writing to you in order to update you about the way in which we will be adapting the educational provision at Southborough High School to comply with the updated Department for Education guidelines (QR Code overleaf) in the second half of this term.

Essentially, the new guidance imposes new obligations, but also new opportunities:

- 1) We will continue to "stagger" the start and finish of the school day, so that Years 10 and 11 will arrive at 9.30am and leave at 4pm. The start and finish times for Years 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 remain unchanged;
- 2) We will be expecting students and staff to wear facemasks in corridors, unless they are exempt, but not in classrooms (as per DfE guidance);
- 3) break and lunchtimes will remain "staggered" and "zoned" (facemasks will not, therefore, be required)
- 4) Students will access the full range of specialist curriculum facilities by moving from lesson to lesson as normal.

I am acutely aware that many members of the Southborough community have strong feelings about facemasks and I would like to reassure you that we have followed, and will continue to follow, the Department for Education guidance on this matter closely.

Naturally, as part of our planning, there are many additional details which will be explained in due course, but the above four actions are the most important for me to communicate to all stakeholders at this moment. I would also like to reassure you that the safety of our students and staff is, of course, my top priority.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, please do contact your son or daughter's Head of Year by e-mail in the first instance.

I would like to conclude by sharing my view that this term has not necessarily been an easy one so far, but we have, nevertheless succeeded in creating a sense of normality



and routine for our students and done our very best to provide the best education possible. You have my assurance that our commitment to the students of Southborough High School and its community will not waver, whatever is required of us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niall Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Niall Smith**  
**Headteacher**

DfE Guidance:

