

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We thought it would be useful to update you more often than normal on how the school is running during this unprecedented time. Thank you for your support, it is very much appreciated. Please keep checking the website regularly as things are changing quite rapidly in our region. If there is something of vital importance we will also alert you via text message.

Firstly, we have been extremely impressed with the way the vast majority of students have conducted themselves in school. They are all taking the situation extremely seriously and doing their bit to ensure learning continues in the safest possible environment. Clearly transmission in the community is high in Newcastle at present and we are regularly in touch with other Trust colleagues, Newcastle Local Authority and Public Health experts. Thankfully we have only had a very small handful of positive cases (currently around 0.4% of the school population) and some students were identified as close contacts therefore their learning is continuing remotely. This virus is such that even sitting near to someone in class over the 48 hour infectious period results in self-isolation. Clearly this cannot be avoided in a school setting and with community transmission rates currently being high. We have spoken to Public Health after each case and they have been impressed and satisfied with all of our procedures. We know there are difficult decisions and times ahead but just to reassure you that our plans, so far, are going well.

A few operational reminders that we would appreciate your support on:

Face Coverings

It has been remarkable how students have adapted to this measure by putting them on and off safely during the change of lessons and in all communal areas. Please remind your children that even with a face covering on this does not make them immune to catching the virus, social distancing and hand/respiratory hygiene is equally as important. Please ensure your son/daughter brings a face covering to school every day and it is washed regularly. Plain face coverings are preferred.

Behaviour In Public

A reminder that when students are arriving at or leaving school they are representing the school and we still expect the highest standards of behavior at all times in public. Students need to be wearing their face coverings on public transport.

Paul Anderson/Claire Smith Acting Principal

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Contacting staff

Please contact the school by telephone 0191 2818486 or email admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk. Please ensure that if your query is in relation to a subject you request to contact the class teacher in the first instance. If this does not resolve the matter you can request contact with the Teaching & Learning Leader. In the event of a pastoral concern then please request to contact the relevant Year Team.

Exams 2021

As far as we know exams next summer are going ahead in the usual way. As such we are preparing students as normal. As soon as we have any further information from the Government we will let you know. We urge all students not to be side-tracked by potential changes and prepare for all assessments in a thorough way, just as they would do normally.

Thank you

Finally, everyone at Jesmond Park Academy is working tirelessly, teaching and caring for our students are our key priorities, filling gaps in study and making sure that all of our students are on a path to 'create their future'. All staff have been working unstintingly to ensure the least impact to school routines, but the truth is, this will not be a seamless time for learning. Safety of staff and students must be our absolute priority. We can assure you our staff have been outstanding in their 'can do' attitude to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum to all students. Due to year group zoning many of them move from room to room six or seven times per day, taking resources with them as they go. Whilst practical areas are based in their own rooms they too spent the summer developing new approaches to ensure students still study the full breadth of curriculum.

We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the support of parents this term; your kind messages of support mean so much so please do keep sending them in!

Have a relaxing weekend.

Paul Anderson/Claire Smith
Acting Principals