

Truro School COVID Steering Group Bulletin No.5 (9 Oct 2020)

The school has had another happy and purposeful week including no positive COVID-19 tests from pupils or staff. If that situation changes, we are ready to respond swiftly, calmly, and supportively, following NHS advice. We extend our support and best wishes to colleagues and families in other schools who have faced or are facing that challenge already, both locally and nationally.

Updates from Week 6 (Mon 5 Oct– Friday 9 Oct)

The following are aspects of our routines that have been updated or re-emphasised since last week and as part of our ongoing review and evaluation of our COVID-safe measures:

1. **Hygiene and physical distancing.** Please continue to reinforce the importance of hand washing and of maintaining 2m distances whenever and wherever possible.
2. **Face coverings.** On the Senior site, these remain required in all contexts (indoors and outdoors) where 2m is not maintained and a lesson or coaching is not taking place. The same expectations apply to off-site education as on site. Face coverings are expected to be worn on trips or when passing public or communal areas in the school day, inside or outside, where 2m cannot be maintained. There are some occasions when pupils are forgetting to put their masks on when moving around the site or in lunch queues. We will put more signs up to remind them of this expectation. At the Prep, and in line with government guidance, masks remain optional for children.
3. **Remote Learning.** Staff continue to share best practice and ideas with each other to support current and future remote learning. We are delighted by the academic progress made by the small number of boarders and other pupils who have had enforced periods of self-isolation whilst awaiting test results or travel windows this term. Senior School pupils were advised last week over how remote learning will be supported in the event of self-isolation. A summary document for Prep parents has been sent out this week too.
4. **The Co-curriculum.** Our Covid Steering Group continues to risk assess each co-curricular opportunity and proposed trip as part of our commitment both to safety and also to the maximising of opportunities for all. We are delighted to have been able to approve our first fixtures and plans for some pupil audience attendance later this term in Drama. We are also committed to ensuring key events such as Remembrance and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will go ahead, all be it in different, remote, or pre-recorded forms. All these decisions are reviewed on a week by week basis in light of the current covid climate.
5. **Visitors.** Our policy remains that any meeting between adults that can take place remotely by telephone or by videoconference should do so, please, to minimise non-essential access

to the school site. We remain committed to face to face interaction with children to support them, of course.

- 6. Public Examinations.** There remains no guidance yet from the DfE or Ofqual for public examinations in England. Guidance has now been released in Scotland and whilst I do not have a crystal ball, I would expect guidance in England before half term. Ahead of those much-needed clarities, our message to pupils, colleagues, and parents alike, remains to approach as much of what we can with normality. If adaptation becomes required, there will be dedicated and committed support for all pupils from our staff, who are ready to respond, and clear information will be shared with parents too.
- 7. ISC Survey.** Thank you to all who have participated in the ISC Coronavirus Parent Survey to date. Please may I remind Senior School Parents who wish to participate to do so before the closing date of **Monday 12 October**. If there is a sufficient level of response from you, Truro School will be supplied with data specific to our school, which would be helpful for us. The link for this survey is here: [ISC Survey](#)

Reflection from the Head

This Saturday is Mental Health Awareness Day. In any school year mental health matters every day, and the purpose of a nominated date is to remind us of that ongoing responsibility. I am pleased our school is an environment in which pupils feel they can ask for help from peers or staff when they struggle, and encourage anyone, child or adult, who is in that position to do the same. We are a community that cares alongside seeking to inspire.

I was able to participate remotely this week in the annual conference of HMC Heads, which includes many of the most prestigious schools from across the country. The call to support the wellbeing of pupils and staff in these testing times was clear, and Truro School has always taken that responsibility seriously. It was also clear that many wider initiatives that Truro is engaged in are of great importance, including our ongoing championing of the Creative Arts, the valuing of a holistic co-education, and a commitment to be part of and not apart from our wider community. Aside from our Covid Steering Group that has been active all term, our plans to set up groups promote Equality and Anti-Racism, to develop coherent and progressive Digital Strategy, and to create an empowering Sixth Form Diploma framework for the future, all seem highly relevant and progressive.

Truro School continues to balance the need to prioritise safety and security in the present alongside evolution for the future, and I reiterate my thanks to all who support and engage with us in that ambition.

Mr A Johnson