



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

6th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It looks like this half term is going to be as strange as the last one with the current national lockdown. I hope your son managed to get some rest at half term so that he feels ready and energised for what is to come. Like all schools, we are facing staffing issues, have a number of students self-isolating and are trying to manage students in class and out of class at the same time. Whilst this is exhausting, we still believe schools are the best places for young people to be for their welfare as well as their education. It is difficult to predict the national situation going forwards so I would emphasise that each week schools are able to be open is a really great opportunity for our young people.

The Department for Education issued guidance on what the new national restrictions mean for education and childcare settings on Wednesday afternoon. The guidance gives leeway for settings to make these changes **by Monday 9th November**. Here is a summary which I hope you will find helpful.

Summary

Face coverings

- Face coverings will be mandatory in communal areas of secondary schools. They are still not recommended in classrooms. At The John Fisher School, students are not expected to wear a face mask in lessons unless the professionals are unable to maintain a 2m distance, have any concerns about ventilation, are teaching a combination of Year 12 & Year 13 students or have Year 12 & Year 13 students sharing the same learning space.
- Face coverings will be mandatory for students in Year 7 and over on dedicated school transport.
- Students are permitted to wear surgical masks. We have asked students not to wear any masks which could cause any offence/distract others in their learning.

Curricular, extra-curricular activities, examinations and 16-19 programmes

- PE, sport, music, dance and drama lessons can continue in line with the current guidance – during school time.
- Schools must only provide team sports listed on the [return to recreational team sport framework](#). Competition between different schools should not take place.
- Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so.
- After-school clubs can only continue if their primary purpose is childcare. So wraparound care in a primary school would be fine, but a Year 8 after-school rugby session would not.
- The current series of examination resits should continue.
- For 16 to 19 study programmes, providers should continue to seek to deliver the majority of education on site unless they have had written public health advice to move some groups to remote teaching.

Feedback on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

We have a parent forum taking place this Saturday on 'learning platforms' and the focus of the parent forum on Saturday 28th November will be 'Relationships, Sex and Health Education' (RSHE). We will continue to be reinforcing to students, particularly those in Key Stage 4, about the importance of healthy relationships, consent, the law, the teachings of the Catholic Church etc.

Attendance: W/b Monday 2nd November

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	98%	97%	97%	98%	99%
Year 8	97%	95%	96%	97%	96%
Year 9	98%	95%	95%	96%	96%
Year 10	98%	96%	93%	96%	94%
Year 11	94%	94%	96%	92%	94%

Catering

The hot food options have been well received by the students this week! We have extended the period parents/carers can purchase these meals via ParentPay until 07.30am on Monday 9th November. From Monday 16th November, there will be an offer at break time and the menus for each lunch time up until the end of term have been prepared. These changes may coincide with alternative arrangements around payment options. Parents/carers are encouraged to consider these hot food options in this half term particularly with the weather getting colder!

Survey

We would really value your thoughts as parents/carers around our new model of school and would welcome your feedback. You are asked to complete this short survey (which shouldn't take more than 2 minutes) by noon on Thursday 12th November: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MDQ2C9>

Election of Parent Governor

I have received nominations from 3 parents/carers who are willing to become a School Governor. I hope you will vote in the election to select a new Parent Governor. Please read the personal statements below carefully and vote by emailing johnfisherschool@johnfisherschool.org by **noon on Thursday 12th November**. You have one vote in total, even if you have more than one child at the school. Please put in the subject of your email '**Parent Governor Vote**' and ensure that you put the name of your son in the email. Any comments or unclear votes at the count, will disqualify your vote.

Votes will be counted at the end of next week and the result will be announced as soon as possible. I hope you will decide to vote, as the Governing Board is very important in the decision making of the school.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh
Headteacher

Personal Statement: Juliette COLE

I am putting myself forward for election to the Parent School Governor post, as I would like to be able to support the ongoing education and development of all students and staff at John Fisher. I have two sons at the school, who have both had very different journeys, so I have an eclectic view of the systems in place and how the school works and feel I have a lot to offer as a Parent Governor.

I am a qualified Mental Health Social Worker, of twenty-six years, with additional specialist qualifications. These entail me working in accordance with various legislative frameworks, and closely with partnership agencies, such as the NHS, police, courts, other social services teams and Universities etc. I am comfortable and accustomed to working; within high pressured environments, to deadlines and being accountable for my practice, that of others and holding others to account for the decisions they make. This includes budgetary responsibility. I currently manage a Local Authority, Social Services Mental Health team and have previously managed a Mental Health NHS Team. I am accustomed to risk assessments and have been able to successfully provide an ongoing service to support to Local Authority residents, as well as staff during this pandemic, ensuring business continuity plans are devised and executed accordingly. I have a background in education and am a qualified Practice Educator, taking university students who are working towards their Masters and above, as well as those training for specialist Mental Health qualifications, or individuals preparing for their university application. I am the lead for Safeguarding and regularly chair meetings and undertake investigations.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with family and friends, walking and exercising. My eldest son and I have signed up to raise money for the Poppy Appeal (100km in 10 days), we are hoping to raise £1000. I support my local church, as well as our local Sea Cadets unit, in addition to being a taxi, for my son's scuba diving activities. I would love for the opportunity to contribute something positive to our school community, the Fisher family.

Personal Statement: Joseph D'MELLO

Having successfully worked in the Financial Services industry in London and overseas in excess of 30 years, I am now working part time and have two weekdays available of which to devote time to act as parent governor of John Fisher School. I have one child in John Fisher School and one in Margaret Roper School, so I will be connected to the education system for several years ahead. I have worked for multiple blue-chip financial institutions and have built a formidable set of leadership skills and experience which could be directly transferable to the role of parent governor. I am a qualified chartered accountant (1992) and have worked in several consultancy roles.

The education of children is paramount for the success of their job prospects and general wellbeing as an adult. The Board of Governors is the senior leadership team which enables the school's strategy to provide the very best of education and wellbeing to the children. The strategy is important to help the child perform academically, socially and aids the child's confidence to move into a career or further education.

I would like to take this role and the responsibility that it entails, as I believe that I have a lot to give to the strategy which will benefit the children of the school. I am at the stage of my life, where I would like to "give-back" to society, and education in particular. If it was not for the strong education ethos that I received when I was young, I would not be in this position to be able to repay it back. Having been brought up through the catholic church since birth, I am familiar with the importance of the role of religion, and the balance with education in a catholic school. With the skills and experience I have acquired I offer my services to the role of parent governor.

Personal Statement: Annie HAYOUKANE

I am a mother of 4 children, 3 of which are boys including one son who is currently year 8.

I have been impressed by the care and compassion shown by the staff and want to make a contribution to help ensure that these qualities continue alongside the academic, sporting and spiritual ambitions.

I have been working in teams for the last 20 years and I hope my contribution has been to ensure that everybody is listened to and that all ideas are valued. In my last role, one of the most satisfying elements for me was to work with all levels of my organisation to develop ideas for our chosen charity (a children's hospice that year). During my last maternity leave I was able to spend time with my children's primary school PAF organisation and I have recently started as an administrator in a local primary school, Regina Coeli School.

I care passionately about making opportunities for our children and the value of bringing parents and teachers together to make this happen, particularly during these most challenging of times.

I would like to be a part of the Governing Board to help provide a safe and nurturing environment for all of our staff and amazing pupils to enjoy whilst supporting the school in continuing to achieve its high academic standards. I believe I have the necessary skill set and will power to make a difference and I would value your nomination.