



21st September 2020

Morecambe Bay Academy
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Dear parent or carer,

From tomorrow, the Lancaster area, including Morecambe, enter into further local restrictions to protect the community from Coronavirus. As a school, we will follow all guidance in full, to make sure the students and staff are as safe as possible. I have included the link below for you to read at your leisure.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/blackburn-with-darwen-oldham-pendle-local-restrictions>

What this means at Morecambe Bay Academy is:

- From Tuesday, everyone must wear a face covering in communal areas. For students this is a plain blue or black facemask. Your child will need a plastic bag to keep this in, and will be shown a video about how to put it on or take it off safely. Some people with disabilities are exempt from wearing a facemask. This will be treated sensitively.
- We will be keeping doors and windows open, even though the weather is getting colder. Please make sure your child has appropriate school uniform layers to keep them warm.
- We will be contingency planning and posting all classwork on Synergy in real time. If your child is absent because they are unwell, or someone in the household is unwell, they will be able to access the same work as everyone in their normal class.
- Students will continue in year group bubbles so that they feel as normal as possible in the circumstances. This means that students in the same bubble are not always expected to distance from each other. They are expected to distance from other bubbles and from staff.

How you can help us:

- Please make sure your child has their own equipment, water bottle and money on their catering account if necessary. We cannot lend equipment, or handle money in the same way as we normally do.
- Unless it is raining heavily, lunchtime is spent outside. This lowers the risk of transmission, and after a whole morning sat inside, is a good break for the young people. Please make sure your child or young person has appropriate layers and a coat on cold days.
- Please make sure you follow the guidance at home, so that we are all modelling the same message to the young people. It is important that young people do not gather in groups after school, but come straight home.
- Consider encouraging your child or young person to walk or cycle to school. Exercise in all forms is helpful for relieving anxiety and this journey is a safe way of students talking to each other and travelling at the same time.



- Make sure your contact details are up to date. The situation can change rapidly, and we may make contact by text message and email. We are also posting key communications on Facebook and our website.
- Make sure we know if you do not have access to wi-fi or a laptop or tablet for your child. We can purchase these resources for anyone entitled to free school meals so that they do not fall behind if they are off school.
- If your child needs a Coronavirus test and you cannot access a test centre, we have a limited supply of tests for those in exceptional circumstances.

How we are adapting to the situation:

- We have had the catch up funding confirmed by the government, and are in the process of assessing students to identify who needs extra support afterschool and in what subjects. We will be sending home resource packs for Year 11 in due course.
- We are trying to offer a wider selection of food to students who can not use the dining room in Years 9-11. This will develop each week. We are also looking at ways to continue to offer a free breakfast, but in 5 different areas.
- We would like Years 8 and 9 who cycle to dismount as they come on to the cycle path by their entrance. This is because we share this path with a local primary school and there have been some near misses from our students on bikes and their early years children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the students for how sensible and focused they have been since their return to school. It has been a delight to see them re-engaging with their teachers and friends. I am certain that they will also adapt to the new measures as well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Michael". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "V".

Mrs V. Michael
Principal
Morecambe Bay Academy