

# Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you, your family and friends are safe and well.

As our fifth week since we re-opened comes to a close I wanted to let you know that despite the significant rise in cases locally and nationally we have had few confirmed cases and I am confident that there has been no transmission in school. As a result please remind your sons and daughters that they are expected to adhere to the rule of 6 outside school and to please follow the local lockdown guidance. Many schools have sent whole Year groups home and had significant numbers of staff test positive. We have been fortunate and whilst we have had confirmed cases they have been significantly fewer than other schools locally and no staff have been positive. Thank you so much for your support with our staggered starts and use of facemasks, I believe this has had a significant impact.

I would like to update you on what the Government has asked us to prepare for. I sincerely hope we do not move beyond Tier 1 but I wanted you to know in advance of possible developments that have been planned for in case of a continued, significant rise in cases.

## Tiers of Response

### Tier 1

Schools will remain open to all pupils but with a requirement that face coverings be worn in corridors and other communal areas of secondary schools where social distancing cannot take place.

*As Leeds is in a Local Lockdown we are currently in Tier 1.*

### Tier 2

Primary, AP and special schools will remain open to all pupils, but secondary schools will move to a rota model, combining "on-site provision with remote education".

Secondary schools will continue to allow full-time attendance for vulnerable pupils and the [children of key workers](#), with all other pupils subject to a rota.

The face coverings requirement will also be in place in secondary schools and colleges.

*If we move to a Tier 2 model we plan to operate a 2 week rota. Students will be in school for their full week A and week B timetable then spend 2 weeks learning remotely from home.*

### Tier 3

Primary, AP and special schools will remain open to all pupils, but secondary schools and FE colleges will allow full-time on-site provision only to vulnerable pupils, the children of critical workers and selected year groups which will be identified by the DfE.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

All other pupils will stay at home and be provided with remote education.

The face coverings requirement will also be in place in secondary schools and colleges.

*This would be very similar to when we re-opened in June but we have not been informed which Year groups would be brought in.*

#### **Tier 4**

All mainstream schools and colleges will only allow full-time attendance to vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers, with all other pupils staying home and receiving remote education.

AP and special schools will continue to allow full-time attendance of all pupils.

The face coverings requirement will also be in place in secondary schools and colleges.

*This would be just as we operated during the full lockdown in March.*

My absolute priority is to keep the school safe and open, in that order. It was devastating for all staff at the school when we shut in March, I found it personally very difficult to announce to the staff what was happening and we are all committed to ensuring our students get the start in life they deserve. The best way to do this is to remain fully open to all students, the only reason we would shut partially or otherwise would be due to safety (and staff numbers are key to this) or we were directed to by the Government.

#### **COVID 19 Tracing App**

I understand there is a bit of confusion nationally over messages the contact tracing app sends. Hopefully this should clarify things. I would say I have pieced this together from NHS and media sources so it is not an official description of the app.

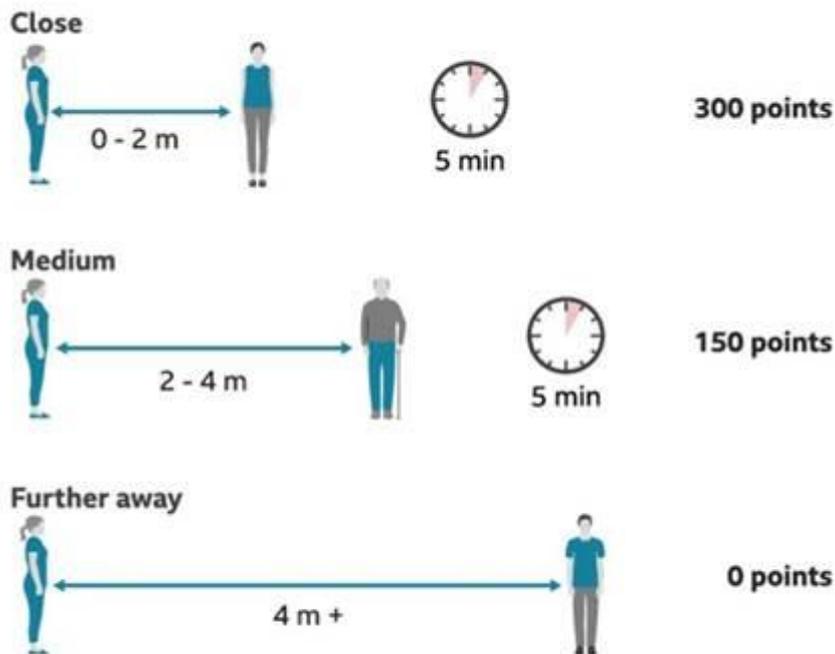
The NHS contact tracing app will send 2 types of message:

1. The first message you receive of this kind – one that reads '**Possible Covid-19 exposure. Verifying exposure info**' – is sent when your smartphone registers it has been close to someone who has tested positive for the virus. You do not need to self isolate if you receive this.
2. You will only receive a second notification if a detailed examination of the data by the NHS app shows that they had a reasonable chance of passing on the virus to you. If you receive this second message you must self isolate.

<https://metro.co.uk/2020/10/06/nhs-covid-19-app-what-does-the-possible-covid-19-exposure-message-mean-should-self-isolate-13379469/>

This is how the app 'calculates' contacts:

## How the algorithm calculates when to send an alert



It does not log whether you were wearing masks, had a glass partition or even a wall between you.

As a result the contact tracing we do in school is much more reliable but it is certainly a useful app going forward.

Sixth Form students are welcome to download the app but **must not have their phone visible in school at any time**. There are no rooms or areas of the school where students can have their phones out.

### Student Email

On Friday 23rd October we will be moving the school email system from Microsoft Outlook to Microsoft 365. From this date students will no longer be able to access any old emails. Therefore, please ensure anything students require for the future is saved outside of Microsoft Outlook.

Thank you, as always, for your kind words and support. This is a difficult time for everyone currently but I know that serving such a supportive community has made things less difficult for us. Even in these difficult times, I speak for all staff when I say that teaching and supporting the young people in our school is still a wonderful job.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

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