



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Good COVID-19 news!**

I am delighted to say that only 4 new cases have been reported this week and so we do seem to be over the latest peak. A reminder that all pupils must wear a plain face mask in communal areas of school and so please do send your child with a mask each day. To keep our virus rates low, we ask that pupils who have not recently had COVID-19 continue to take regular lateral flow tests; many thanks to all the families supporting this request.

### **Issues with ParentPay this week**

We are aware that there were some issues on Monday with crediting money to the ParentPay system. These are now fully resolved and the problem was found to be with the provider (ParentPay) and not with the school's systems.

We have also been experiencing the effects of some supply issues within the catering industry which necessitated some temporary product replacement, e.g. paninis and pasta pots, at the start of the week. Again, these are now back to normal, however supply chains remain volatile at the moment however the Robertson FM Catering Team have assured us that they will keep us up to date with any future changes.

The cost of a 'meal deal' – a standard, two course meal – has increased this term from £2.35 to £2.40; this is determined by Tameside MBC. Details of all menus offered and the associated prices can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Please remember that your child must bring their dinner card every day if they wish to purchase anything from the school canteen. Lost cards can be replaced at Student Services for a charge of £1.

### **Year 11 Mock Exams**

Mock exams start on Monday for Year 11 and we would urge all Year 11 pupils to take these seriously and to revise well. These exams will provide a useful benchmark of strengths and weaknesses so that future revision can be focused on the right areas. They are also vital just in case we need to use them next summer as evidence of Year 11's performance. Good luck Class of 2022!

### **Inappropriate use of social media platforms**

It has come to our attention this week that a small number of pupils are creating Tik Tok clips with derogatory comments aimed at members of the school team. Due to the nature of some of the clips, this has now been referred to the Police who have confirmed that these classify as malicious acts and will now be investigated. Whilst we all have a sense of humour, staff and pupils are not here to be submitted to abuse and clips which cause offence to anyone contravene everything that we stand for at Hyde in terms of mutual respect and in particular, this week's message from the Student Leadership Team about kindness to each other. Any further clips will be added to the Police report.

## Digital Access

As we move to an increasingly on-line system for homework, we have been made aware of two major suppliers who are offering cheaper broadband to families receiving Universal Credit.

**Virgin Media Essential Broadband** comes with a speed of 15 Mbps and a fixed price of £15 per month, with no fixed-term contract length and no price changes while benefit payments are being received.

Existing customers can apply for the plan by completing the form on the link below:

<https://www.virginmedia.com/help/register-for-essential-broadband>

**BT Home Essentials** is a similar plan called and can be found on the link below:

<https://www.bt.com/exp/broadband/home-essentials>

This is also £15 per month for a 12 month contract with no early exit fees so that you are not tied into a contract if your circumstances change. The BT package comes with guaranteed speeds, reliable Wi-Fi and unlimited broadband. BT also offer packages with certain eligibility criteria for families in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support.

These BT packages are available for new and existing customers.

## Punctuality

Please find below a reminder of start times for each year group. **By this time, your child should be in their classroom** being registered for the day and so they should be arriving at school in time to do this.

Year 7                8:40am

Years 8 &9        8:45am

Years 10 & 11 8:50am

A small number of pupils are repeatedly arriving late to school and if you are receiving text messages indicating that your child is regularly late, we are asking for your support in improving their punctuality to ensure an effective start to the day.

## Bonfire night

As today is the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, there are likely to be fireworks a-plenty over the weekend. A video from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service relating to Bonfires, Fireworks and Anti-Social Behaviour can be found [here](#) should you wish to share it with your child/ren.

Wishing all our pupils and their families a pleasant weekend. Keep safe.



Andrea Radcliffe  
Headteacher