



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James



14 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Several parents/carers have contacted the school regarding the decision to remove the 'learning zones' after half term. It has been, and continues to be, challenging to say the least to plan and implement arrangements in school. Please be assured that everything we have done is carefully considered and decisions are taken with the best interests of all at the forefront. Paramount to anything is the safety of students, staff and our wider community.

The current situation where students remain in the same area for lessons throughout the day has worked in the short term but is untenable going forward. This is particularly the case in terms of learning, but it is also clear that there are not significant safety benefits. We have consulted closely with all other schools in the area about how they have arranged lessons and taken guidance from all relevant authorities.

The crucial times for students are social times and the best way to mitigate danger is to ensure there are clear areas for each year group as they cannot mix. This is what is in place.

The other area to be addressed is movement around school and the likelihood that students will pass other year groups in corridors. The enforced wearing of masks in communal areas, the use of one-way systems and clear guidance about maintaining social distancing wherever possible is the best way to deal with this and these arrangements are all in place.

The issue of social distancing is clearly one which we all have to consider carefully. The guidance is that children do not have to maintain the 2 metre distancing from others within their year group. As a school we are encouraging students to socially distance when possible and to get in the habit of staying away from their friends. We are sure you appreciate this is not easy for teenagers!

We can assure you that changes would not have been made if it we felt these increased the risk to students. In fact, the insistence on the wearing of masks is a significant positive which the students have already bought into wholeheartedly.

Thank you for continuing to raise concerns and share positive comments with us. It is always extremely useful to have the views of families when planning and your comments will be a great help going forward.

Yours faithfully

Mr R James
Executive Headteacher/CEO NEMAT

Dr C Cusick
Head of School