# Friday 17th July 2020

# Dear Parents and Carers

# Attendance advice to Parents, Carers and Students

# As from September you are aware that all students are expected to return with the exception of a very small number of children who may be shielding following advice from Public Health England. Within this letter we have attempted to guide you to the key documents being used to form Government advice for schools and the return of students. We also attach our College’s Attendance Policy so that you are clear of the expectations.

# *shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).*

# Guidance for full opening: schools - Published 2 July 2020

# <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-2-school-operations>

# We realise that the opening of schools will cause anxiety for some of you. The advice provided has been generated from a range of professional bodies but does take into account the need in some cases to consult medical professionals, as outlined in the links provided.

# If your son/daughter is identified as ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’, either due to the risk of severe infection, or the risk arising from complications of infection, please do read this advice and follow up any queries with your child’s medical professional(s). Please do then communicate with the College the outcome of these discussions.

# COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-shielding-guidance-children-young-people#children-who-should-be-advised-to-shield>

**Letter explaining changes from 1st August From the Chief Medical Officer & NHS Medical Director 22.06.2020 SHIELDING UPDATE**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/06/C0624-shielding-letter-to-nhs.pdf>

As from September the 7th or 8th we are now expecting all students back in College. The advice is clear and states;

*School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:*

* *parents’ duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
* *schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
* *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct*

Where a student is unable to attend College because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice (such as self-isolating), we will provide remote education and will expect students to engage with this work unless they are too ill to undertake this. A form of evidence will be required to authorise the absence (to be confirmed at a later point by the Department for Education and Devon Education Welfare Service).

Where students are not able to attend College as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

As a College, we have been working hard to continue to stay connected with students via feedback from teachers and by a range of means with the wider pastoral team to provide home contact by Tutors, Head of House and Senior Leaders. We have also offered anxious students the chance to meet their Head of House in the College.

The College has also been evaluating student wellbeing through the use of online survey tools, to help identify the concerns that students may hold and the alleviate these as best we can by communicating with home about reopening plans. This work will continue on our return in September.

If you have any queries surrounding attendance at Sidmouth College in the autumn term please can you contact the College as soon as possible to discuss this further prior to starting back in September.

Attached is the College Attendance Policy which covers all aspect of attendance. It can also be found on the College website at

<https://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/uploads/3/1/6/1/31615835/attendance_policy_july_2020_covid_19_amended.pdf>

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Parsons

Principal