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Head Teacher
Mrs J Sturgeon

27th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Update – Use of Face Coverings in School

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We are settling back into school life and our young people are coping well with the new regimes of hand washing/sanitising and cleaning desks etc.. I am grateful to them all for the maturity they have shown at this time.

You will be aware from the First Minister's announcement on Tuesday that the use of face coverings is now obligatory in all schools from Monday 31st August. This is another step put in place to stem the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Pupils and staff must wear face coverings in the following circumstances:

- where adults and young people in secondary schools are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain; and
- in line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and children and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport.

You can find the full guidance here [Guidance on Re-opening Schools](#)

In our school we expect pupils and staff to wear face coverings in corridors and all communal areas regardless of the time of day. This means pupils and staff must wear a face covering on entering the building at the start of the day, at all times when they are moving around the building or in the hub space at social times and when leaving the building.

Whilst the guidance at this point in time does not require pupils to wear a face covering in class, pupils should feel comfortable doing so if they wish. In some classes pupils are unable to social distance and therefore they may feel more comfortable wearing a face covering. Staff will also be encouraged to wear a face covering if moving around the classroom.

Pupils can remove masks to eat snacks/lunch but these must be worn as soon as they have finished their snacks/lunch.

In line with current NHS guidance some people are exempt from wearing face coverings due to underlying health conditions or disability. If any individual falls into this category but they feel they can wear a face covering then they should.

For those young people who have a pre-recorded condition which exempts them from wearing a face covering and they feel they cannot wear one they should see their Pastoral Care teacher who will issue them with an exemption card which can be shown to staff if they are asked to put on their face covering. We will also share a list of pupils who fall into this category with all staff but given the nature of the size of a secondary school it is possible that not all staff will recognise every pupil. Therefore this measure will hopefully help those who are unable to wear a face covering feel comfortable if they are asked about it.

There is no additional uniform policy in relation to face coverings other than to maintain our commitment to no football colours or offensive images/slogans.

We are relying on pupils wearing face coverings responsibly. This means that they must maintain positive behaviour and use their face covering safely. Face covering must not be placed on desks, they must not be shared and it is recommended that they are put in plastic wallets/bags such as a sandwich bag when not in use. These must not be discarded in school or in the community.

It is essential that pupils come prepared with a face covering every day from Monday 31st August as we are unable to supply these at present.

I would very much appreciate your support by explaining the new procedures to your child and ensuring they have an appropriate face covering every day they attend school.

Yours sincerely,



Joanne Sturgeon

Head Teacher

