

28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re-opening September 3rd 2020

We are approaching the beginning of the new term and as promised in my previous letter I would like to update you following the Government's U turn this week on the use of face coverings in school. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we keep up with the government guidelines for schools which change regularly.

Government guidelines now say that for students in schools in lock down areas, masks are mandatory in school corridors and communal areas where social distancing is more difficult. In areas of England not currently subject to tighter restrictions, like ours, Headteachers have discretion over this issue. This reversal in policy has happened just days before we are due to return to school and I understand the anxiety this may cause.

Some students (and their parents) may feel they want to wear face coverings and would feel more secure doing so, while for others the reverse is true and face coverings will feel uncomfortable and unnecessary. Therefore, the fairest solution is to make this optional; for those students who wish to wear face coverings, they may do so, but this will not be mandatory. This will be in communal areas only: government guidance says that face coverings are not necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible and this should be avoided.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Please look on the DfE website (www.gov.uk) for further information and advice. We would ask all parents to ensure that, should your child wish to wear a face covering, it is appropriate for school and is plain, and that students act responsibly if they choose to wear one. We will be constantly reviewing this position and will let you know if the situation changes.

Please contact the school office if you have any concerns or questions about this.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind you to log on to Facebook to watch the walk through videos produced by Heads of School Tom Hailwood and Danny Gee before your children return to school. We have worked hard to make school as safe as possible for everyone and we are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Executive Headteacher