

Our Ref: PJS/LRS

5 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

New guidance has been issued requiring students and staff to wear masks in communal areas. As you will know, we actually moved to that situation a couple of days ago however it is important that you emphasise to your child that this is now a nationwide expectation and not just a school-based decision. Students need to wear masks as soon as they are in buildings – this is both before and after school as well as between lessons. The students have generally taken this within their stride but whereas it was advisory that students should wear masks when lining up for dinner or any other communal indoor areas outside classrooms (apart from when eating and drinking) it is now compulsory. Whilst we don't want to get to the point of having to sanction students, it is important that they realise that this is not a choice and if you could emphasise that at home that would help us considerably.

Any students who are exempt from wearing a mask will be issued with a lanyard but it is the parent or student's responsibility to inform the school in advance as we try to effectively police the use of masks.

We are under considerable pressure regarding staffing now that shielders have been told to stay at home, along with staff who are self-isolating. We are doing our very best, however students are likely to have more cover lessons as we try to keep the school open to all year groups. We are having to make a judgment each day as to how we can cover all the classes required and it would be really helpful if you only contact the school over the next few weeks about urgent or important issues – we are struggling with capacity. If something is really bothering you then please let us know, but if there are issues that can wait it would be really helpful if you could just give us a little time whilst we work through this difficult period.

Thank you for your continued support with not coming onto the school site, we appreciate that this may prove difficult at times especially if students forget items but we do need to limit visitors into school at this time.

I trust that you are all keeping safe and keeping your spirits up as we face this second lockdown – hopefully you are, like us, very relieved that the schools remain open.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Jenkins
Headteacher