

Our ref: PJS/DKP

10 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the government changed the guidelines last week and wearing masks in corridors is now compulsory for all students and staff. We are having to deal with increasing numbers of students who are arriving at school without masks therefore can I ask you to ensure (as far as possible) that your son/daughter has a mask, or even a couple, before they leave in the morning. Should your child arrive without a mask then they will be given a disposable mask for the day and parents will be charged £1. At the moment we are running through an unsustainable number of masks and it's perhaps a little too easy for students – if they find their pocket money is docked to pay for masks they may well remember in the morning.

We are experiencing huge staffing issues with staff shielding and then a number of staff self-isolating. It has been a real challenge this week to keep the school open with most of our PE department out and our pastoral team reduced from 8 to 1 member of staff. Inevitably we have a lot of cover teachers and that can be unsettling for students, however staff who are well and self-isolating are broadcasting live lessons into the classrooms.

Whilst it's far from ideal we are doing our very best to keep the school open. It would be really helpful if you have a child who is sometimes a bit of a scamp, to make sure they understand that with no pastoral support and many supply teachers, we need them to be onside and behaving to keep the school open. Whilst it might seem fun to wind up a supply teacher, if we can't get supply teachers to return then we will be in the regrettable position of having to return to home learning, which I'm sure none of us would relish.

If we can get through the rest of this week then I think we should be okay, however it is incredibly challenging at the moment and it would be really appreciated if you could support us in those little ways so we can focus our attention on keeping the school running.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



P Jenkins
Headteacher