



much  
more than  
just a school



4 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Today the government released its guidance to schools on what the new national restrictions mean in schools. The DfE has decided that in this lockdown phase of the national response to the pandemic masks should be worn in schools where students in Year 7 and above are educated.

The official guidance released this afternoon states that in this lockdown phase: Face coverings should be worn by adults and students when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings should also be worn by students in Year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary schools or on public transport.

We have been asked to ensure this change is in place by Monday, 9 November. As a result, can you please ensure your child comes to school from next Monday with at least one mask which should be worn in the school corridors and communal spaces, such as the restaurant. Some of our children may be exempt, if that applies to your child please can you write a brief note in the planner explaining the reason he or she cannot wear a mask.

The government has also restated the importance of school explaining that: Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of education, and children's future ability to learn. It continues to be our aim that all students, in all year groups, remain in school full-time. The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus.

Thank you for your continued support, we hope that mask wearing does not become something which hinders clear communication or a point of conflict. Please do talk to your child about the importance of mask wearing when requested by staff and also reinforce the need to accompany mask wearing with continued good hand hygiene for example through regular hand sanitising. We will continue to keep you updated with any further changes.

Yours faithfully

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Headteacher

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Head of School



Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

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