

05/11/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Facemasks/coverings

I hope you are well and coping in these difficult times. Last night the Government published their guidance for the “2nd lockdown.” The guidance can be found at [gov.uk/guidance/education](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education)

It clearly outlines the intent that all schools will remain open, however the new guidance states;

“In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.”

From **Monday 9th November**, this will mean that **all staff and students must wear a facemask when moving around the site, between lessons, going to the toilet and any inside communal “break times.”** This will not include when eating lunch or when outside. The wearing of facemasks in classrooms will still be down to individuals to decide.

At the start of each day, before students enter the building we will ensure that they all have masks and know how to wear them. However, if they do not have masks, we will have to ask them to return home to get one – we won’t be able to have students in school without masks and we sadly are not in a position to give masks out.

Please can I ask you to ensure that your children are equipped with masks and hand-sanitiser before setting off for school each day. As previously stated masks should be plain and black or navy.

The Government do highlight some exemptions that may apply to some of our students;

- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress

If your child fits either of these categories, then we would just need evidence from your GP that this is the case, we can then make your child exempt.

These are not measures we like to have to put in place, however, we do understand that we have a duty to support the Government and to do what is right by children and families. Hopefully as we move into the New Year the situation may improve.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr T P Body
Headteacher