

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Face covering in schools - update**

I am sure you will have seen in the National news over the last two days that the government has issued an update on the use of face masks within schools, this has led to further guidance from our Trust and Public Health Sheffield. In brief this stated that face masks **should** be used in secondary schools **where other protective measures cannot be adhered** to (e.g. social distancing in communal areas and corridors) by students and staff. As a result, we are providing the following guidance to students and their parents/carers.

#### **Guidance for students**

At this moment in time, student and staff use of face coverings is **highly recommended** in areas where other protective measures, such as maintaining 1m social distancing, cannot be adhered to e.g. movement within communal areas (both indoors and outdoors)

Remember that **some students will be exempt** from wearing a face covering, this should be handled sensitively e.g. children under the age of 11, people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability or where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress.

Students should be instructed how to safely put on and remove their face mask during the first day back in their tutor group i.e. washing hands before and after and ensuring they do not touch once wearing and do not put down on surfaces, reusable masks should be placed in a washable bag whilst not being worn and then washed at the end of each day at 60°C, disposable masks should be placed in the lidded bins provided in key areas.

We **DO NOT** expect face coverings to be worn in classrooms. However, a student will **never be disciplined for wearing a face covering in a lesson**. This will be dealt with on an individual basis. Similarly, students choosing not to wear a face covering in communal areas **will not** be disciplined.

We will be providing all staff with face coverings and we highly recommend that all students have a face covering with them in school to be worn in these areas. The Academy will also provide spare masks for students when needed. As indicated in my end of year letter to all parents, students age 11 and over are required to wear a face covering on home to school and public transport

Additional advice is due from the government for areas that enter a local lockdown. This guidance will be updated when that is available.

I do hope this offers further re-assurance that we are taking all reasonable steps to ensure a safe return to the academy. I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Yours faithfully



Andy Downing  
**Principal**