

COVID transmission reduction measures: important update

From Monday (14th September), the wearing of masks/face coverings in the following densely populated communal indoor areas in school will be mandatory:

- in all indoor corridors
- when queuing for food inside the Main Hall
- in the N-rooms & the sixth-form common room during breaks and lunchtimes only

In the interests of the health of all members of the school and that of the wider community I am exercising my discretion as Head on this matter, as advised by the Government, in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Pupils will also be reminded by teachers to put on a face mask/face covering just before they leave a lesson if they are about to enter an **indoor** corridor.

Face coverings do **not** have to be worn in lessons or anywhere outside school buildings. They can also be removed in the Main Hall **once you have taken a seat**.

These rules apply to all staff and pupils alike.

I am sorry that it has come to this but a minor inconvenience is clearly better than creating, albeit inadvertently, conditions conducive to the spread of a dangerous and highly infectious disease.

Messages were sent out some time ago asking you all to acquire a face mask, which are cheap and widely available. There is no excuse for not having one.

All of this is in line with the very latest announcement relating to COVID restrictions on social gatherings in non-educational environments.

This rule does not apply to the library because of the existing restriction on numbers here, the capacity to ensure social distancing and the height of the ceiling.

Update 6 November 2020 (additional DfE guidance) -Sixth-formers **must** wear face masks in the sixth-form communal areas at all times (with the exception of when they are eating / drinking). This includes the Common Room, Mezzanine, Balcony and N Rooms. When using Tutor rooms as 'bubble areas' at break and/or lunchtime, students **must** wear masks (with the exception of when they are eating / drinking) **unless** they are sat facing the front, in rows and where social distancing (2 metres) can be maintained.

Equipment for Learning (E4L)

We kindly remind you to ensure your child has the full list of equipment required for the start of term including the items we added as part of our COVID risk reduction measures (i.e. glue stick, hand sanitiser, pack of tissue for personal use, a water bottle and a healthy snack from home to eat at break in their classroom as initially tuck will not be available to all year groups).

Please also ensure **cashless catering account** balances are topped up if your child would like a school lunch when the new school term starts. If you require your unique log on reference number for the cashless catering system please contact school.

Mr Northwood