

6 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Lockdown 2.0: Revised Guidance for Schools

As you may be aware, the Department for Education has published revised guidance for schools as part of the lockdown 2.0. There are two key areas of change as follows:

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Students

Students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable** may be advised by their specialist to shield. If your child is in this position, we would ask you to contact us so that the necessary arrangements can be made to provide education remotely for them.

There is **no need** for a student who lives with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable to stay at home.

Please note that we do have a small number of staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable, some of whom are teaching staff and they too will need to shield. Inevitably, this will be a disruption to learning for some students.

Face Coverings

Face coverings should now be worn by adults and students when moving around the College, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings are still **not** recommended in classrooms.

Therefore, from **Monday 9 November**, we will have to ask all students to adhere to this guidance. Students will need to put their face coverings on as they prepare to enter their learning zone building at the start of the College day and they will then need to be worn during lesson changeovers and during breaks and lunchtimes, unless students are outside. Students will be permitted to remove their coverings when they are eating or drinking.

In line with our face covering protocols, we ask that parents and carers note the following:

- There are many different types of face coverings, but only face masks are permitted in College. Scarves, snoods, bandanas etc. will not be permitted.
- Face masks should be worn for the purpose for which they were designed.

- Face masks must be suitable for a school setting. There are an increasing number of personalised and designed face coverings. We ask for them to be kept as plain as possible, with no inappropriate images or slogans appearing on them.
- Face masks must be worn properly covering both the nose and mouth, not resting under the chin or on the forehead. It may be useful to show your child the NHS video on How to Wear a Fabric Mask Safely: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk&feature=youtu.be%C2%A0

We do require parents and carers to provide face masks and we do recommend that students bring spare masks to College as where a face mask becomes damp, it should not be worn and should be replaced. Also, like other uniform items, a face mask may get lost throughout the day.

In line with the government guidance we also request that you provide your child with a plastic bag (ideally one that seals) so that they can store their face mask safely when in lessons.

Please note that the College will not be able to routinely provide face masks or plastic storage bags, unless there are individual exceptional circumstances and we ask parents and carers to contact us if this is the case.

If any parent or carer wishes to discuss an underlying health condition that may exempt their child from wearing a mask, then we ask that you contact the College to discuss this further.

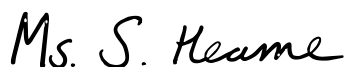
We will brief individual year groups about the expectations for wearing their masks throughout the day so that students are aware of the protocols, including the need for students to sanitise their hands more frequently given that they will be touching their face masks routinely throughout the day.

This wearing of face masks protocol will remain in place at least up until Wednesday 2 December when the lockdown is due to come to an end.

As a College, we have not advocated the use of face coverings as we firmly believe that our health and safety regime and our use of learning zones takes away the need for this. However, we are required to follow the government guidance.

We thank you in advance, once again, for all of your support.

Yours sincerely



Ms Siobhan Hearne
Principal