



DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

Dear Parent/Carer

As mentioned in my recent communication with you, the government has issued new guidance on the wearing of face coverings in secondary schools. The guidance from the Department for Education states that there is no requirement for schools to make face coverings compulsory, unless local restrictions come into force as a result of an increase in COVID-19 cases. However, schools now have the discretion to require or allow face coverings in communal areas.

Since the summer term we have worked hard to prepare the School site and alter many of our usual routines and systems to meet the guidance for minimising risk of transmission of COVID-19. We have reviewed these in light of this new flexibility with face coverings and have made the decision to allow students and staff to wear a face covering in, for example, corridors or stairwells should they wish to do so, although it will not at this stage be compulsory.

The government has stated that if transmission rates rise in an area then it may require students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas in schools. If they have not done so already, all parents/carers should ensure their child has access to an appropriate face covering as, in this event, we may not be given much notice of them becoming compulsory.

Anyone choosing to wear a face covering will be expected to carry a sealable bag with them so that the covering can be put away safely and sealed after use. They will need to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser before and after the use of a face covering. In line with government guidance, face coverings will not be allowed to be worn by students in lessons. Some members of staff, due to their role, may need to use face coverings in particular circumstances and the issue of face coverings generally will be continually reviewed. Only face coverings appropriate for a school setting will be allowed (e.g. ideally plain, but definitely no slogans, pictures or anything that would cause offence or disruption to the smooth running of the School).

We will be writing to you again later today to share further information regarding the return of students to school and plans for remote learning.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey

Head Teacher