

29th September 2020

Dear parents and carers

You will be aware that the Department for Education has advised secondary schools and colleges to use their discretion with a requirement for face coverings in communal areas. Given the national rise in the rate of infection, we believe it is now right to introduce an additional precautionary measure to reduce the possible transmission of COVID-19.

From tomorrow, **Wednesday, 30th September** it will be **advisory** for students to wear face masks as they enter the college building, in communal areas as advised by the Principal and in corridors at lesson changeover. From **Monday, 5th October** it will be **compulsory** for students to wear face masks.

Students do not need to wear masks in lessons owing to the fact that they are part of a year group 'bubble'; they do not need to wear them outside, although they should still maintain social distancing.

We have clear expectations for the use of face masks in school or college:

- Face masks should be worn correctly, covering the face and nose.
- Students should bring a small plastic bag to safely store their face mask when not in use.
- We encourage students to use a plain reusable face mask which can be washed on a daily basis and is kinder to the environment than a single use mask. If a student chooses to wear a disposable mask they should bring more than one to school/college each day.
- It will be the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure the wearing of a face mask by their individual child(ren).
- Students may be asked to remove their face mask by a member of staff (where social distancing measures can be maintained) for a short period to aid communication.

If your son or daughter is unable to wear a face mask, we ask that you get in touch with the school by Friday of this week to discuss your child's medical plan. We will ask you to provide evidence of medical exemption.

Staff will also use additional precautions and will of course ensure that they avoid "close contact" with students at all times.

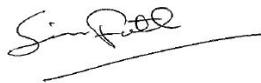
Although the COVID-19 risk to young people is, thankfully, reported to be very low, young people can pass on the infection to others who may be more vulnerable. We would like to reassure families that our schools and college are doing an excellent job to ensure that students are as safe in school as they can be; this face mask measure is an additional precaution to add to the safety measures in place. The MLP policy on the wearing of face masks in school/college will be reviewed on a regular basis in line with guidance from the DfE and Public Health England. We reserve the right to change our position, with the expectation of your continued support.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Busby
CEO



Simon Firth
Principal