



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

14 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you, following the Government guidance update on the wearing of face masks in schools.

In short – please read carefully below for further details – we have decided not to change our current position in relation to any aspects of managing the risks posed by Covid-19 to our school and wider community.

The pandemic is far from over and there are signs that a variant of Covid-19 is spreading as close to us as Aylesbury. Facemasks have been extremely effective in limiting the spread of Covid-19 and we need to keep them for now.

Face masks will remain compulsory in school until half term, as a minimum.

Further, students will continue to need to carry their own personal supply of hand sanitiser, in addition to accessing the wall-mounted dispensers around school.

Our growing school is housed on a relatively small site and so, we do not have acres of space to spread out into. There are pinch-points during the day when we know that securing 100% social distancing would be impossible.

Face masks are also compulsory for all of our students:

- **On public transport, our mini-bus and local authority buses**
Please note that we cannot police this, therefore, we rely on our students being responsible.
- **In corridors between lessons**
We expect students to still make every possible effort to stay 2 metres apart from each other.
Masks to be placed on before students enter a building.
Teachers will instruct students to place them on before they leave a classroom.
- **Queuing in the dining room**
Student can remove their masks once they sit down to eat.

When arriving at school, students will still be asked to show that they have a mask with them, if they are not wearing one, as part of our school gate checks.

We favour the use of reusable masks, and ask that students bring a small bag to carry them in, when they are not being worn.

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to office@buckinghamsschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



Important to note:

- We are relying on parents to provide a face covering that is the correct size for their child
- We will presume that you have taught your child how to apply, wear and remove the face covering safely
- We will also be relying on parents to ensure that the face covering is cleaned on a daily basis
- We do ask that these face coverings are plain and appropriate for school

Guidance on removing a face-covering:

- Use hand sanitiser before removing (students will need to use their own)
- Only handle the straps, ties or clips
- Do not give it to someone else to use
- If single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- If reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- Use hand sanitiser once removed

Exceptions

Some students, for good reason, are exempt from wearing a mask. The school will work with families to consider each case on its merits. Parents/carers should contact their child's Head of Year in the first instance, if they believe that their child should be exempt. If the school accepts the explanation, the student will be issued a card that they can show staff, if they are challenged. Government guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Further, reviewing our arrangements for safe break-times, we have agreed that students will be outside during their break-times in all weather. Therefore, coats and umbrellas should be brought/worn to school.

We are doing everything we can to ensure a positive and happy environment for our students and staff. All of our arrangements and procedures are under constant review. We will continue to update you and to provide as much clarity as we can to support this aim. Please continue to contact us should you need any further guidance or support. In the meantime, thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

With my best wishes



Mr A McGinnes

Headteacher

aallen@buckinghamschool.org

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