

25th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to update you all regarding the Academy's recent communications about the use of face coverings when in the building. I feel it is important that you are all aware of the efforts being made to encourage the widespread use of face coverings by students in the Academy. Although wearing a face covering in the Academy is not mandatory, it has been strongly recommended since the beginning of term. These recommendations are even more important as we respond to the reported increasing transmission rates in the local area and become aware of a number of local schools impacted by positive cases.

I hope that the information below provides reassurance but also encouragement to continue to support the wearing of face coverings, along with high levels of personal hygiene, when in communal areas.

Measures taken by the Academy:

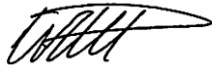
- The large majority of staff wear face coverings throughout the Academy day.
- There are reminders of the need to wear face coverings at the start and end of every lesson before students enter transition periods between lessons.
- There is information regarding the importance of face coverings displayed on the TV screens around the Academy.
- There have been assemblies and tutor time presentations on the importance of face coverings and personal hand hygiene.
- Any student who does not have their face covering is able to collect one (disposable) from their Learning Manager in their specific bubble room before the start of the Academy day. These are also available at the uniform cupboard.

As an Academy, we will continue to strongly recommend and promote the use of face coverings in the Academy but will also review our practise and modify these where it is considered that it might have a positive impact on student and staff safety.

I had previously requested that all students wear a face covering that was free from pattern, logo or multiple colours but now will modify the Academy position slightly. It was difficult to estimate the challenges that we would face in maintaining the integrity of the reusable mask's cleanliness whilst wearing daily for extended periods of time but this has proved an issue for students and staff. From **Monday 28th September** all students **are able** to wear face coverings that contain logos or patterns but these must be appropriate and inoffensive.

I hope that you are well and thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Pratt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr W Pratt
Principal

