

Dear Parents and Carers,

Change to College Policy on face Coverings

Thank you for your support last week with getting the students into our new routines. As the transmission rates increase sharply across the country, we continue to be vigilant and to review our risk assessment. We are pleased that the large majority of the Covid-contract is working well and students are following its requirements. The one area we remain concerned about is the use of face coverings. The Covid contract makes the wearing of these around the college optional and in the detailed guidance I sent you before the summer holidays, I said we would be “strongly encouraging” students to wear them in order to ensure safer movement in areas of the college where students encounter others from different year group bubbles. However, since we completed the risk assessment that led to the publication of the Covid contract, the national context has changed. In line with many other schools in Hampshire, we are therefore changing our policy. Therefore, from tomorrow and until further notice, students, staff and visitors will be required to wear a face covering when arriving to college, when moving around the college at lesson changeover and when leaving the site at the end of the day. They will be asked to put them on before they leave a classroom and then sanitise their hands as they leave the room. They will be able to take them off when they arrive in their next classroom and sanitise their hands again. This, together with the attached advice, will ensure the safe use of face coverings. We believe that wearing face coverings will enhance the preventative measures we already have in place.

Face coverings may be removed once students are seated in their classrooms where other measures are enforced, such as hand hygiene, good ventilation and enhanced cleaning. Students and staff who would prefer to keep the coverings on in lesson will be allowed to do so. Face coverings may also be removed once students have arrived in their break time year group zone.

We have already spoken with parents who have notified us of their child’s needs which mean they should not wear one. In these cases, exemption passes have been issued. We will continue to support these students with their needs and the requirement to wear a face covering does not extend to them. If your child is unable to wear a face covering and you haven’t already contact us, please email enquiries@wyvern.hants.sch.uk.

Students should have a bag to safely place their mask into a bag that can be sealed when it is removed and follow the guidelines. Masks are available from most shops, either disposable or reusable and can be easily purchased. We do hold a small supply of masks within College which can be issued to students, in the case of an emergency replacement being required and students if they wish can purchase a mask from the Finance department for 50p.

Please share the attached advice about wearing face coverings with your child.

I also ask for your help on a second matter. We have had some unhelpful rumour mongering taking place on social media about children who might or might not have covid-19. Currently, there are no confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst the Wyvern staff or students. It is likely that in the weeks ahead this will change and we are ready for such an eventuality. We will keep you informed of any developments and we will continue to act upon the guidance given by the government. In the meantime, I would ask that speculation and rumour do not take place; not only does this spread alarm and fear, it also stigmatises the illness and those who have it. I do appreciate it is a worrying time for families and that it is natural to be concerned. Some schools across the country have already had to close for groups of students or staff. Given the developments of the past two weeks, it is very likely that all schools will have cases of Corona virus in the future. Whilst we will be working

hard to prevent this, we will need to prepare students for the possibility that Wyvern will also have cases in the weeks ahead. It is important that we do so with a sense of proportion and perspective, based on facts and formal advice, without alarming students or making them unduly afraid.

As you may recall, we had set aside the 25th September as Pastoral Review Day because we wanted to meet with parents after a prolonged period of time of you not be able to come onto the site. We are not, within the current context, able to run this event safely so we will postpone it until we are able to do so. If in the meantime you have any pastoral concerns about your child, please do contact our Pastoral Team. Friday 25th September, will remain as a College Inset day, with the college being closed to students.

I really do appreciate your continuing support during these changing times.

Mr B Rule

Headteacher