



3 September 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I anticipate that this will be the last letter I write to you before your sons and daughters return to school and I would like to cover a number of issues specifically related to health and safety.

Face coverings

As you may have heard, the government has changed its guidance relating to the wearing of face coverings in school. In areas with local restrictions pupils, staff and visitors will be required to wear a face covering in school. In areas where there are no local restrictions the decision to wear require face coverings or not is delegated to the Principal. There are currently no local restrictions. After carefully reviewing our risk assessments and consulting with staff I have decided in the first instance that the wearing of face coverings should be optional. Those staff and pupils who choose to do so, may wear face coverings in communal areas outside of lessons. Government advice is clear that the wearing of facemasks is not necessary in classrooms.

'Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided'. DFE guidance for full opening of schools, August 28, 2020.

If you would like your child/children to wear a face covering please be aware of the following points:

- The face mark should be plain with no logos or patterns
- Your child should bring a sealable plastic bag in which to place the face covering when it is not being worn.

We will make sure that all children know how to apply and remove their face coverings safely, and ask that you reinforce these messages at home using the government guidance found here:

<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>

It is very important that if wearing a face covering at school, your child understands the correct way to wear, handle and store them, as if they are handled incorrectly it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

We are very keen that nothing should impede learning and so would strongly discourage pupils wearing face coverings in lessons. If the wearing of masks in lessons is something that you wish to discuss please contact Assistant Principal Mr Green via email to

gavin.green@lynngroveacademy.org.uk and we can review specific arrangements for individuals.



To maintain the high behavioural standards around the academy, we will expect the following in regard to face coverings:

- Face coverings will be plain and not display any words or graphics
- Students are expected to observe the safe and appropriate application and removal of face coverings once this has been explained to them
- If students are using their face coverings in a disruptive manner, this will be dealt with as disruptive behaviour, and dealt with in accordance with our behaviour protocols
- Students must never share face coverings
- Tampering with another students' face coverings would be classed as a significant health and safety breach and will be dealt with accordingly

Please be aware that we will be reviewing the decision on a weekly basis and on full return to school we will undertake careful analysis of corridor traffic. In view of this, or the potential for changes in government policy please can I ask you all to have a mask and an appropriate plastic bag ready for your child should the regulations change. However, in the event of regulations changing, if you believe that your child/children should be exempt from wearing a face covering due to a disability or other concern, please inform Mr Green as soon as possible.

Further Health and Safety Communications

We will only communicate health and safety information to you via letter and in the case of an urgent message we will text you. We will not use social media.

If you need further information about what to do if you have concerns about coronavirus please follow this link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. As you know we set very high importance on good attendance in school, but if your child is displaying coronavirus symptoms it is essential that they do not attend school and you follow the advice in the link above. Similarly it is essential that you and your family follow any guidance you receive in relation to self-isolation or quarantine.

If a child becomes ill in school with coronavirus symptoms we will follow a rigorous procedure to reduce their contact with other pupils. If we have a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school we will receive immediate support and guidance from Public Health England Protection Team and will communicate this with you without delay.

Your views

It would be very useful for us to capture your view on your children's wellbeing at this point and so I am attaching a link to a very brief questionnaire [here](#). It will take you less than a minute to complete and is completely anonymous. If you have specific wellbeing concerns that you feel you would like to share with us please do not hesitate to get in touch directly with your child's Progress Leader, see key contacts [here](#).

It just remains for me to say as a staff body we have had three incredibly productive training days and are very much ready and looking forward to welcoming your children back to school next week.

With all best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Alison Mobbs
Principal