



28th June 2021

Dear Parents, carers and students,

Reintroduction of facemasks for students from Tuesday 29th June 2021

To begin with, I trust you are all as well as can be given the circumstances. While parts of the country appear to be opening up, schools are frustratingly having to send more students home for remote learning because of increasing infection rates and track and trace contacts. That said the vaccine programme appears to be having an effect so let's hope that this latest setback is as brief as can be.

Over the weekend there was an increase in the number of students testing positive at Bridgewater. If your son or daughter has been identified as a close contact you will have received a separate, more detailed letter. Meanwhile we remain in regular contact with the Local Authority and Public Health England who have advised that from tomorrow we should reintroduce the wearing of facemasks to combat this rising infection rate in school.

Therefore, from tomorrow face coverings should be worn in classrooms as well as in corridors and communal areas like the dining Halls. This will be reviewed in conjunction with the Local Authority and Public Health England as appropriate.

Please click [here](#) for the full guidance. Face coverings do not need to be worn where students are exercising such as Dance and PE. Also, they can be removed when eating and drinking. As before, there are exemptions which apply to individuals who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties
- speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

Pupils who do not wear a face covering will carry a card to indicate that they are exempt from doing so. Please contact the relevant PAM or PAL if you need to confirm this.

Reminder of social distancing guidance and managing positive tests for Covid-19

In school we will continue with our existing control measures that include: use of "bubbles" and "holding zones", staggered starts and finishes alongside an increased cleaning regime. We will also reinforce messages about ventilation and routine personal hygiene.

If any student has symptoms or tests positive- with or without symptoms, then they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and take a [confirmatory PCR test](#) as soon as possible.

Symptoms include: a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, a loss of, or change in, the normal sense of taste or smell. Government guidance can be found [here](#).

This is a very frustrating turn of events for us all but I am sure I can rely on your support and the resilience of our students to pull through it.. Finally, if as part of your home testing you identify a positive case please contact as soon as possible.

Regards,

Tim Long

