

Our reference: SMCLET9/LH

29th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: COVID-19 temporary guideline changes from Tuesday, 30th November 2021

As you will no doubt be aware, on Saturday the government announced that as of Tuesday, 30th November it would again become mandatory to wear face coverings in all shops and on public transport. Subsequently, on Sunday afternoon, the Department for Education wrote to all headteachers to inform us that students, staff and any visitors to school are also required to wear a face covering, unless exempt, in all communal areas or public spaces on the school site; this also applies to students travelling on public transport and for parents when attending any meetings in school.

Therefore, in line with the national guidance, from Tuesday 30th November 2021, face coverings are required to be worn by all members of the school community outside of the classroom, however, within lessons it is discretionary and a personal choice. From tomorrow, I would ask you to ensure that your child has two face coverings with them (this includes a spare) and that they comply with wearing it at social times and in communal areas, this includes when queuing for food in the canteen; they may remove them when sitting at a table. Regular use of hand sanitisers is also recommended.

It is so important that we remain vigilant and do all that we can to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The twice weekly LFD testing is really helping us to identify any asymptomatic positive cases and keep infection rates as low as we can. Throughout the past 18 months, your support with this has been amazing, let's keep going, and with the Christmas period fast approaching, we consider following this government guidance to be important in order to help minimise any disruption for our entire school community and their families over the festive period.

Currently, there has been no recommendation that school events should be cancelled as a result of the new temporary guideline changes and we intend to continue at present with any pre-planned events.

Once again, as ever, thanks to all our parents in anticipation of your continued support with testing and ensuring your child adheres to the new guidance over the next few weeks.

Let us work together to keep everyone safe.

Yours sincerely

S McKARRY
Head of College

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