



30 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: The wearing of face masks

As you will know, cases of Covid-19 are currently increasing across the country and in our local area with Oxford city moving to high alert (tier2) from 31 October. There have also been a very small number of confirmed cases at NOA this week. Although the risk to young people is considered to be very low, we want to do everything we can to minimise further the risk to our students and staff.

Therefore, from **Monday 2 November 2020**, we recommend that students and staff wear face masks in the corridors and communal areas of the school.

We are all used to wearing face masks when we are on public transport and in shops, so this is something that should now be straightforward for everyone when they are at school.

The wearing of masks will mean that, when walking around the school and in inside areas where people may congregate, there will be an extra layer of protection for students and staff. Face masks will NOT need to be worn in lessons.

We recommend washable cotton face masks and ask that parents ensure these are suitable for school i.e. no slogans or images, plain not patterned, darker colours, etc. It is important that masks are used correctly and cover both the mouth and nose.

We know some students have medical conditions that mean they are unable to wear face masks. We should already be aware of these conditions but if not, please can you inform us as soon as possible and no later than 8.15 am on Monday 2 November by contacting Emma Blane if this affects your child.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents to keep to the staggered arrival and departure times at the beginning and end of the school day. These are in place so that year group bubbles enter and leave the school as a group and to minimise the contact between bubbles as far as is practicably possible.

The importance of regular hand-sanitising remains vital and I would encourage you to give your child their own sanitiser to bring with them every day and I ask you to remind them to use it responsibly.

Thank you again for your support at this very difficult time for everyone. I send my very best wishes to you and your family and hope you continue to remain fit and well.

Yours sincerely

Alison Merrills
Principal