

28th August 2020

Face Coverings- Updated guidance and Information for Parents.

I am sure you are aware that the government has changed their advice surrounding the wearing of face coverings in schools this week. Previously they had said the wearing of face coverings would not be necessary in schools. This has now been updated and the Department of Education has stated:

“Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances. In addition, the government has advised additional measures are taken in areas of national intervention as listed on www.gov.uk The government’s guidance states that in those areas face masks should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risk are lower, and they can inhibit learning.’

Our local area is **not** currently an area of national intervention and as a college we have taken a significant number of precautions to minimise any risk, as outlined in the return to college plan for the September. Therefore, in line with the above guidance we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory across the college at the moment with the following exceptions:

- From Monday 7th September all 6th form students will be required to wear a face mask (plain black, navy, dark grey or surgical with no logos) in corridors and specified communal areas as this is the only year group who will be moving across the college regularly. All other year groups will be moving around the college at very limited times each week and will be following set routes for their year group
- When students are working in a 1:1 situation e.g. intervention, pastoral meetings etc; in smaller SEN classrooms and in the Alternative Provision Base.

Students who must use public transport will be required to wear a face covering whilst using public transport to travel to and from college. Upon arrival to the college students must remove face coverings worn on public transport and place in a plastic bag which they will place inside their school bag.

All students are however expected to bring an additional plain black, navy, dark grey or surgical, non-logo face covering to college every day which should be placed in a clean plastic bag within their bag. This ensures they have a face covering available if they are directed to wear one. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering for medical reasons please inform the college nurse via contact@stmichaels.org.uk with information and evidence of the exemption.

However, I completely recognise that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridors and or classroom and I am happy for them to do so. Please note that masks must be plain black, navy, grey or surgical ones, no logos or motifs and must be worn appropriately, sensibly and hygienically. Any student misusing a mask will be required to take it off, any student whose mask does not meet the college requirements will be issued with a replacement surgical mask.

I will of course review this decision in the light of any updated government guidance and any changes in the local situation.

Ms F. Corcoran.
Principal
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