

Dear Parent/ Carer

## Updated Guidance on Wearing of Face Masks for Secondary Students: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September onwards

We hope all our families and students are continuing to stay well. As you are aware, new lockdown measures will be in place for Birmingham from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. As part of the new measures, households in Birmingham are unable to mix in homes and gardens. We have also amended our staggered start and end times slightly in order to help with social distancing. However, it is important that children do not arrive at school too early because this is preventing social distancing.

You may have seen discussions in the news regarding face coverings in schools. Guidance was updated on Wednesday August 26th, 2020 and was published by the Department for Education. It can be found at this [Face Coverings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education) link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Now that Birmingham is going into a lockdown, our policy regarding the wearing of face coverings is changing. It is recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that schools should take additional precautionary measures in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. These areas are defined as areas of national government intervention, which due to Birmingham's local lockdown places Washwood Heath Academy in this area. In compliance with the World Health Organisation's recommendations, from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, face coverings will be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and all students in Year 7 to Year 13 when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas. Students may wish to wear them during lunch times too.

In the morning, when arriving at school and when waiting to enter the school site, students must wear a face covering until they reach their form room. In addition, students must wear a face covering when they leave their form room to go to lunch, to move to a different classroom, to go to the toilet, when being collected by a member of staff and when leaving their form room at the end of the day.

All face coverings must be removed when entering classrooms and will not be allowed to be worn during lessons. Face coverings in classrooms are not required as protective measures are already in place and they will inhibit learning and communication.



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Face coverings must be plain in colour and can be in the form of a disposable or reusable cloth design. Patterned, personalised or offensive face coverings will not be allowed in school. **Face coverings cannot be provided by the school.**

Students who choose to wear a face covering must wear a plain washable face mask or a plain light blue/white disposable mask.



Face coverings are only effective if they are used and handled in the correct way. Safe wearing of face coverings requires sanitising and cleansing of hands before and after touching – including to remove or putting them on. Between each use face coverings must be disposed of in bins or stored safely in individual, sealable plastic bags. Face coverings must never be shared. At the end of each day please ensure disposable face masks are thrown away in a bin and reusable masks are thoroughly washed and dried. **Please discuss with your child how to use face coverings correctly before their return.**

It is important that students place all disposable face coverings in bins on the school site or in a public bin or a bin at home, in order to protect others and to keep the local community litter free.

Yours sincerely




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