



SMA

Wednesday, 26 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families have had an enjoyable summer.

We wrote to you at the end of the summer term with our plans for re-opening in September. The information is attached to this correspondence. I am pleased to confirm that we will be fully opening as anticipated and are very much looking forward to welcoming back all our students and welcoming our new Year 7s.

We will be sending out further information specific to each year group next week, in advance of them returning.

Although it is impossible for there to be no risk, please be assured that we are doing everything we can to minimise risk to students, staff and the local community. We have completed a full risk assessment and this will be available to view on our website from next week.

### Face Coverings

You will have seen yesterday that the Government has revised the guidance that was released in July regarding face coverings. I provide the links below to the Secretary of State for Education's announcement on 25<sup>th</sup> August and the Government Guidance released on 26<sup>th</sup> August:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-face-coverings-in-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

In light of this, we will be proceeding with the following approach which is informed by the Government guidance and the World Health Organisation (WHO) advice, which the Government has deferred to.

Students will need to wear a face covering:

- If they are walking in close proximity to friends outside their 'bubble' on the way to school
- as they arrive into school and as they walk into their 'designated area'
- as they walk from one area of the school to another
- if walking around a classroom
- as they wait in a queue, for example at lunch or to enter a classroom etc
- as they use the toilet facilities

Please also be aware that:

- Students will see members of staff adopting the same protocol, with some teachers choosing to wear visors during lessons.
- Some students and staff will not be wearing face coverings due to personal medical reasons and we will all be sensitive and respectful in these situations.
- Some students and staff will be wearing face coverings in classroom settings as well corridors, etc. due to personal medical reasons – again, we will be sensitive and respectful in these circumstances.
- If a student wishes to wear a face covering during a lesson because it makes them feel safer, more comfortable, etc. then we will, of course, be respectful of this.
- Face coverings must be appropriate for a school setting, with no inappropriate slogans, markings, etc.

Please see the link below which provides advice on the wearing of face coverings:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMSqc9SpJc>

Thank you for your continued support and, should there be any further changes we will of course let you know as soon as possible.

Best wishes,



**Stephen Mansell**  
Headteacher

