



# Alder Community High School

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Headteacher: Mr R O'Regan BSc (Hons) NPQH

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Covid-19 Protective Measures: Updated guidance from the DfE**

Following the Government's decision last night to switch to plan B, the Department for Education have updated their guidance on face coverings. During these uncertain times, it is vital that we keep everyone safe and prevent the spread of the new Omicron Variant. As a result of this, our uniform and behaviour policies have been updated (see below). These changes will apply from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. If your child is exempt for medical reasons, please contact school to ensure that they are given an exemption card.

### **Uniform policy update:**

The Government guidance (09.12.21) states that students *should wear a face covering in Year 7 and above in all communal areas and on public transport and dedicated transport to and from school*. Students should bring a face mask with them each day.

Students who are exempt for medical reasons will be issued with an exemption card.

### **Behaviour policy update:**

The use of face masks: From 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, new advice will apply to the use of face coverings by staff and students in schools and other education institutions that teach students in Years 7 and above in England. This guidance can be found on the Government website. Alder's response to the latest Government guidance from the DfE is that students will be required to wear a face covering in all communal areas and on public transport and dedicated transport to and from school. Once they are in their form room or classroom, they can remove the covering as directed by a teacher. Students will be instructed throughout the day as to when they need to wear the face covering. Face coverings should be either washable fabric or of the disposable type.

### **Face masks must:**

- cover both the nose and the mouth
- not be allowed to dangle around the neck
- not be touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal
- be changed when they become moist or damaged
- be worn once and then discarded (or washed) - hands must be cleaned after disposal



From 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, face masks will be listed as essential equipment in school. If a student does not have a face mask, they will be given an opportunity to purchase one from reception for 50p during form time. At any point, if a student still does not have a face mask, they will be given a 30-minute equipment detention after school with their form tutor. If a student breaks their mask during the school day, a free replacement will be given from reception. It is a student's responsibility to take care of their mask throughout the day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to protect our school and community from Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,



**R O'Regan**  
**Headteacher**

