

## Guidance on the wearing of face masks at Huddersfield New College

The DfE finally published its guidance for the safe opening of schools and Colleges in September on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020. In this, it is clearly stated that there are 5 main priority areas for reducing the risk of spreading the Coronavirus and creating an inherently safer College environment:

- Prevention and response ready for an outbreak of the virus
- Good hand hygiene
- Good respiratory hygiene 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Enhanced cleaning
- Minimised contact between individuals and social distancing respected, wherever possible

A Government announcement (Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August) also requires as mandatory, in areas such as Kirklees and Calderdale, with additional restrictions in place, the mandatory wearing of face masks in corridors and communal areas in schools and Colleges, as an additional measure to reduce the risk of spreading the virus in a school or College environment, where social distancing is more difficult.

Following this updated guidance, the wearing of face masks at Huddersfield New College will be optional in classrooms but mandatory when moving between classrooms, and in communal areas such as the LRC and Study Centre, unless a 2 metre social distance can be respected in these communal areas.

The College will provide you with a reusable face mask. Should you forget your mask, you can purchase a disposable one from the main reception, and from the Student Help desk in the LRC at a cost of 50p.

The wearing of face masks on College buses is also mandatory, as it is if you travel on public transport.

### Here are a few pointers for how to wear a face mask safely:

- Wash or sanitise your hands before and after putting on and taking off your face mask
- Place your mask over your mouth and nose
- Tie it behind your head or use ear loops to make sure it is snug
- If you accidentally touch your mask, wash or sanitise your hands
- If your mask becomes wet or dirty, switch it to a clean one,. Put the wet or dirty mask in a sealed plastic bag until you can wash it
- Remove the mask by untying or lifting off the ear loops without touching the front of the mask to your face
- Wash your hands immediately after removing your mask
- Regularly wash your mask with soap and water by hand or in the washing machine. You can include your mask with your regular laundry

### Tips for adjusting to wearing a face mask

It can be challenging to get used to wearing a face mask. Here are some tips for making the transition:

- Start slow. Wear your face mask at home for a short time. Slowly increase the time until you feel more comfortable
- Find your fit. If your mask isn't comfortable or is too difficult to breathe through, consider an alternative mask. Face masks come in a variety of styles and sizes
- Tie one on. Instead of a face mask, try a scarf or a bandana to cover your nose and mouth

Please note face masks should **not** be worn by anyone who has difficulty breathing.