



14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

In line with the Government's announcements on Monday 11 May, the Department for Education (DfE) has published updated COVID-19 guidance for schools, including information about the wearing of face masks. This guidance states that face masks are no longer recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas in schools.

From Monday 17 May students will, therefore, no longer be required to wear face masks in school.

Students who travel to school on the bus should continue to wear their face mask when travelling on buses.

The updated DfE guidance still recommends that members of staff wear face masks in corridors and communal areas where they cannot maintain social distancing. If students also wish to continue wearing face masks in communal areas, they can do so.

All of the other control measures we have had in school from September 2020 continue to be in place at this time.

Whilst students have found it uncomfortable to wear face masks in school for long periods of time we have been really pleased with how sensible they have been. Thank you for your support with this.

Mental Health Week

This week is Mental Health Awareness week and the theme for this year is 'Connect with Nature'. This week we have delivered an online assembly with students to share ideas about the benefits for both our physical and mental health when we connect with nature and find ways to enjoy, and be more mindful of, our natural environment. We all connect with nature in different ways, whether this is by being in outside spaces to play football or go for a walk, to grow flowers or vegetables, or just to look outside and observe the nature around us. Please find attached to this letter a 'Nature Guide for Parents and Caregivers' for your own information and you can also find more information at the Mental Health Foundation website:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

We have also encouraged our students to get involved in helping everyone have access to green spaces and to join the #iwill campaign to participate in social action for meaningful change in our communities and empower our young people to be active citizens.

<https://www.iwill.org.uk/about-us>

HEADTEACHER: Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

"Working together to achieve success"

School Uniform

Please be aware that from September the straight skirt will no longer be part of our school uniform and we ask that if students wish to wear a skirt that this is the branded pleated skirt, which is available to purchase from Get Branded

<https://www.getbrandedworkwear.co.uk/collections/joseph-rowntree-school>

We also ask that you check carefully when buying trousers in preparation for September that these are tailored, not skinny or stretchy material, and end below the ankle.

Shoes should be plain black, free of branding and have plain black laces. Please note shoes which are trainer or pump style are not allowed.

We will be introducing a new school tie for September. Students will wear a tie linked to their year group. These will be a different colour for each year group, but students will retain the same tie for years 7 to 11. The new ties will be provided free of charge to students who are currently in Year 7-10. Ties for Year 7 students joining the school in September will be available through Get Branded before the summer holidays.

A wide selection of Pre-Loved uniform and PE kit is available at the Cats Protection Charity Shop in Haxby, who stock an area dedicated to Joseph Rowntree uniform for us. If you do have any outgrown uniform or PE kits that you would like to donate they are now accepting new items, in particular smaller sized items of uniform and PE Kit.

There is further information about uniform on our school website. If you have any questions about uniform please contact your child's pastoral team with any queries before you purchase items.

<https://www.josephrowntree.co.uk/parents/uniform>

We understand this has been a challenging year and if you are experiencing financial difficulty please contact us so we can see how we can support you with buying uniform items.

Heroes Stamp Design Competition

We are delighted to be taking part in the Royal Mail 'Heroes' stamp design competition. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are invited to take part in a competition to design a stamp to honour the workers and volunteer heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic. All students have been given an application form. Entries should be handed into your child's pastoral office by the end of the school day on Friday 21 May.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.stampcompetition.ichild.co.uk/>

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher