



1st September 2020

Dear Year 7 Parents

Face Coverings

Further to the letter you received last week, we have now updated our school risk assessment in response to the latest government guidance around the use of face coverings in schools.

You will be aware that the government is not currently recommending that face coverings are necessary in schools due to the additional mitigating control measures in place, unless a school is in a local lockdown area. However, we recognise that some students may choose to wear a face covering in corridors or communal areas of the school if they feel this provides reassurance on a personal level.

Please can I ask you to reinforce the following expectations with your son/daughter if they choose to wear a face covering in communal areas of the school:

- Students will be responsible for wearing face coverings correctly and will need to be familiar with how to put on, remove, store and dispose of them. This will be explained during Year 7 student induction this week and guidance can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#how-to-wear-a-face-covering>
- The design of any face coverings should be appropriate for a school setting.
- Government guidance states "Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided". All students will therefore be asked to remove face coverings as they enter the classroom.
- Students who use public transport to travel to school will need to wear a face covering. If students choose to remove these upon entry to the school, temporary face coverings should be placed in a covered bin and re-usable face coverings should be placed in a plastic bag to be taken home.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Mrs Kirwan on pki@birkenheadparkschool.com in the first instance.

I would like to thank you for your support in making sure everyone in our school community is kept as safe as possible.

Yours faithfully

Helen Johnson
Headteacher