



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1ST CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

26th August 2020

Dear families,

You may be aware that the Government has recently reviewed guidance on face masks for Secondary School students and staff. We circulated this guidance on our social media on Tuesday evening. As a school we have to demonstrate that we have taken every measure we can to reduce transmission risks in order to safeguard students and staff. I am also aware that there is some understandable anxiety in the community about returning to school so I do want to ensure that families and staff feel that we have taken every measure available to us to ensure the safest possible environment. I also believe that in a time of ambiguity and mixed messages it is vital that as a school we take a clear, transparent stance so that all our community understand our expectations. After reviewing the guidance and in line with the context of our site and the arrangements we already have in place in school to reduce transmission, we are implementing the following from 1st September 2020.

- Staff will wear face masks when moving between lessons / in staff work areas. Staff have face visors to wear while teaching so this will not impede communication.
- Students will be expected to wear masks when moving to lessons and queuing for food / using toilets. Students will also have to wear masks when they are indoors in social time, they can be removed for eating and drinking.
- Students will NOT be expected to wear masks in lessons – we believe this impedes learning and is also uncomfortable. We will continue to monitor the guidance on this but at this stage the Government also agrees with this stance.
- If students are in an outside space during social time they will not have to wear masks.
- Staff will wear visors/masks whilst on duty supervising students (according to their preference).
- ALL students using public transport / the school bus MUST wear a face mask whilst on the bus.
- When students remove masks they must do so safely – we will issue guidance as part of student induction in Sept.
- At NO time must students attempt to touch or remove another student's face mask.
- We recommend students use reusable masks which can be washed – cost effective and better for the environment.
- We ask that students wear plain face masks only preferably black / blue– NOT face coverings/scarfs/brightly coloured/decorated masks, this is not a fashion accessory it is there for safety.

If a student in our resource provision with high level SEND needs has concerns over wearing masks due to sensory issues we will discuss this with the family to agree how we will manage this.

If a family is concerned around the wearing of masks due to specific medical reasons please contact the school via our Covid enquiries email address and we will discuss this with you. Our site plans mean that there will be minimal movement around school so students will not have to wear face masks for lengthy periods.

If you wish to discuss any of the points in this letter please contact the Covid enquiries email address below. Any SEND enquires should be direct to our SENDCO (email address at the end of this letter)

Looking forward to working with you all this year,

Regards



Heidi Thurland
Headteacher
Excellence in Learning – Achievement for All

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