



Diocese of Middlesbrough



Fides Caritas Unitas

ALL SAINTS RC SCHOOL

Diocese of Middlesbrough
Head Teacher: Mrs S L Keelan-Beardsley



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Our Ref: SKE/ABAX

2 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have enjoyed a relaxing summer with your families.

As you will be aware, since we sent our information letter out to all families in the final week before the summer holidays, the government has made changes to the guidance issued to schools, the latest being just last Friday.

The main developments are around the use of face coverings in public spaces. The new guidance, states that face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and in communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. However this will at the discretion of the school and not mandated except in those local authority areas where there are local lockdown restrictions. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom where there are already measures in place to reduce the risk of spread of infection.

As a city we have worked together collectively throughout this crisis. This includes schools, Local Authority, Multi Academy Trusts and Public Health England. In our most recent meeting on Friday afternoon a representative from Public Health outlined the benefits of face coverings in reducing infection, procedures for what to do if someone becomes ill during the autumn term, and positive measures we can implement to help prevent further spikes in Covid-19 infections in York. It was also good to hear that relatively speaking colleagues consider York to be in a positive position at the moment with the rolling seven day infection rate at 7.1 new cases per 100,000 (15 cases in the week to 25 August). Whilst this is encouraging news, it is vital that we all remain vigilant and there is no room for complacency of any kind.

The desire to maintain a low R rate has resulted in all York Schools being issued with guidance from the Director of Public Health and she will shortly be making a formal recommendation to all secondary Headteachers regarding measures we can take to further strengthen the comprehensive arrangements that are already in place. **She will 'strongly advise that students wear face coverings 'in corridors and communal spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained'**. As always it is also important that we all continue to wash our hands regularly and keep a social distance of 2m where possible, or 1m with extra precautions e.g. wearing of face coverings, avoiding face to face contact and improving ventilation. As a school these measures have been built into our risk assessment.

As schools it is important that we continue to be guided by information from Public Health and we will continue to adhere to and support this recommendation in the weeks ahead. We accept that the



Compassion



Truth



Respect



Forgiveness



Justice



Service



Gentleness



Humility



Stewardship

advice to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas is guidance rather than a mandate and as such there will not be punishments issued for those students whose families choose not to ask them to wear a face covering in these circumstances.

As per our previous letter, the wearing of a face covering for students coming to school on a bus, whether a school bus or public transport is compulsory. In a change to our guidance issues before the holidays, face coverings are now mandatory on private transport which means that they **must be worn on the journey to and from our playing fields.**

In terms of face coverings/masks, these need to be appropriate for school use, either plain or patterned with no writing or emblems on them. Please can you ensure that your child has a small plastic bag to keep their face covering in when they are not wearing it?

The timetable has now been finalised and students at KS3 have been allocated classrooms. There will be minimal movement around the site and seating plans will be used to help with track and trace. Staff will move to the children and to minimise issues regarding the carrying of extensive amount of equipment we requested in the previous letter that students bring their own basic equipment to lessons, please can you also ensure that where possible your children have coloured pencils, glue and scissors.

While we will have a small amount of spare equipment, it needs to be disinfected after every use and so the sharing of pencils, glue etc. becomes very difficult.

At KS4 students will move around the site, although equipment sharing will also not be possible and we therefore request that they also bring pens, pencils, colours, glue, scissors and maths equipment including a ruler to lessons.

We have been reluctant to ask parents to spend money on these items in what we realise are challenging times for some families, but we can't find any other solution to this requirement.

We will be reviewing how everything is working on a regular basis and will be writing to you as we make any changes to our organisation. Two areas that we will be looking at in the first two weeks will be our catering facilities and PE changing.

School will feel different for the students and staff initially, but we know from past experience how adaptable they can be with the right support and encouragement. We are excited to welcome back the whole school next week and we have worked hard to put measures in place to ensure that our young people are both academically supported and kept safe. As ever your cooperation is very much appreciated as we look to collectively support a successful return to school in the safest possible circumstances.

If you have any questions regarding the start back to school which we have not covered in our correspondence, please email school in the usual way with a title of 'back to school'.

Yours sincerely
Mrs S L Keelan-Beardsley



HEADTEACHER