



Diocese of St. Albans



ST MARY'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

2 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As I have said before, we are looking forward to seeing your son/daughter back in school. Remember, Y7s are back tomorrow for two days, Y12 and Y13 back for a few hours on Friday. All year groups will be attending full time from Monday 7 September.

As you are probably aware, the Government have decided to allow headteachers to make the decision about face coverings in school settings.

The guidance from me, or locally/nationally, may change in the event of an outbreak, but at this stage I have decided:

1. To allow face coverings/masks in communal areas (e.g. corridors and dining areas) if that is the choice of the individual member of staff or student;
2. Face coverings/masks are not to be worn in classrooms by anyone. Note: some staff may chose to wear clear visors that enable students to see the faces of staff and do not impede oral communication
3. Face coverings/masks must be plain and free of decoration and logos. Students will be told to remove inappropriately decorated face masks/coverings;
4. Staff and students should not be using medical grade face masks that medical colleagues use in hospital settings because that level of protection is not necessary in school and it will reduce national stocks for those people who really need them;
5. If your child intends to wear a face mask/covering it needs to be put on, removed, and stored appropriately. Information taken from the Government advice, link to full webpage here states:
 - a. *"It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly and that clear instructions are provided to staff, children and young people on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings in all of the circumstances above, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission.*
 - b. *"Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully."*
6. If your child intends to wear a face mask/covering, please read the advice from the Government about face covering use, wearing and storage here (link), in particular half way down the page from the sub-title "How to wear a face covering" and train your child to wear and store them appropriately;
7. Because face coverings are not a requirement, they will not be supplied by the school.

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Headteacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

'Students feel happy and safe at school' OFSTED 2019

'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection 2020

Please monitor your emails from me about any changes; I will keep you up to date regularly, much as I did before March 20th on the understanding that we work much better when we work in partnership.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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