



Nether Stowe School

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28th August 2020

Dear parent or carer,

I hope you are keeping safe and well. We are looking forward to seeing our pupils return to school again next week. You will, I am sure, have seen the media coverage regarding the wearing of face coverings in educational settings, particularly secondary schools. I wish to clarify the school's position on this.

The Department for Education's latest guidance (26th August) has made it clear that they are not making the use of face coverings mandatory for schools but will give schools discretion on their use in communal areas and moving around school. To this end, we will be requiring all students to be in possession of a face covering for wearing at break times and lunchtimes. Face coverings in lessons are not recommended.

Due to our use of year group bubbles we have minimised the number of students moving at change over and so will not require students to wear face coverings when moving between lessons, though they may do so if they wish.

As you know, we have worked extremely hard to mitigate against all possible risks and make our school as safe as possible for staff and students. The use of face coverings in our communal areas will enable us to support the other robust control measures we have in place. We will, of course, integrate the safe wearing, storing and disposal of all face coverings in our general expectations and induction procedures on the return to school.

We expect students to bring their own face coverings to school as part of their mandatory equipment. Face coverings are now widely available and already in use in many parts of society. Guidance on how to make simple face coverings can be found on the department for education's website.

Guidance on the storing of face coverings is also clear and they should be stored in a plastic bag when not in use. As well as a face covering, therefore, students will need to ensure they have a plastic bag with them so that they can safely store their covering when not required.

We also understand some pupils may not be able to wear face coverings as a result of certain medical conditions; please ensure this is communicated to school via the appropriate College or Pastoral Head

This is an evolving picture and we continue to do all we can to follow the relevant guidance from Public Health England and the government where appropriate.

In summary:

- Everyone should wear a face covering at break and lunch when inside the building
- Pupils may use a face covering when moving between lessons if they wish
- Face coverings should be stored in a plastic bag
- Let your Pastoral or College head know if you have a medical reason which prevents you wearing face coverings
- Face coverings are not necessary in lessons

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- If you forget your face coverings a very limited number of replacements will be available from reception. It is, however, expected that all pupils bring their own.

Your support and cooperation, as always, is appreciated

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

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