



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

9th September 2020

Dear Parent

We have been back at school a week now and I have been extremely pleased with the way the pupils have responded on their return to school, engaging well with their learning and all the new restrictions and procedures in place. The current school attendance is around 95% which is excellent considering the circumstances and I hope this can be maintained over the term.

The school has reviewed its Risk Assessment in light of the new Government guidance and I have attached a copy of the updated version for you.

One change which we would like to implement from tomorrow is to make the wearing of face masks for pupils and staff mandatory in corridors and indoor communal areas including 6th Form Common Rooms. I must stress that this is not for lessons unless there is a prior agreement or for outdoor areas.

The reason for this amendment is threefold. Firstly, the behaviours and movement patterns around the school have meant that some corridors are crowded albeit for short spaces of time. Secondly, if we were to get a positive Covid-19 confirmation then we could provide more specific information to Public Health England for Track and Trace purposes. Lastly as the rates of infection have risen across the country it seems prudent to introduce this step at this time. The following rules will now apply to the wearing of face masks:

- The wearing of face masks will be mandatory for staff and pupils in corridors and indoor communal areas
- The wearing of a face mask is optional on the way to and from school (unless using the school bus/public transport where it is compulsory),
- Face masks must be a plain disposable or plain washable mask.
- A small plastic bag should be brought to school to keep the mask in when in class.
- Disposable masks need to be disposed of at home.
- A child can only wear a mask in class if specific prior agreement is made with the school.
- If a member of staff opts to wear a mask in class it will be a clear visor to enable teaching.

I do appreciate that this is short notice and so if your child does not have a face mask for tomorrow, please ask them to go to their pastoral office where one will be provided. If for medical reasons your child cannot wear a face mask then please inform the relevant Head of Year as of course, an exception will be made.

Could I also ask that pupils come with their own hand sanitiser as it has become apparent that the cost of all the PPE will be unsustainable without making cuts to other areas of the school budget. As you may be aware we have not been granted any extra funds to provide PPE this academic year. We will continue to provide sanitiser across the school but I am already concerned with regard to the rising cost so pupils bringing their own would help in this regard.

Kind regards

Mr Pearson
Principal



Executive Principal: Mr C Zimmerman
Operational Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principal: Miss S Hesten

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