



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the light of the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday about a national lockdown in England from Thursday, I thought it would be useful to send you a brief update on face masks in schools. At the time of writing, the guidance from the DfE remains:

... face coverings should be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and students when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

The DfE suggest that there is no requirement to wear face masks in classrooms as there are other protective factors in place. They also state that face masks are not required outside. Your son is permitted to wear a plain, dark face mask anywhere in school, despite the fact it is not currently a requirement during lessons.

The Coronavirus usually spreads by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces, if you touch a surface and then your face without washing your hands first. This is why social distancing, regular hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes is so important in controlling the spread of the virus. The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face mask may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others. Because face masks are mainly intended to protect others, not the wearer, from Coronavirus they are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing.

Why does the requirement not include classrooms?

The DfE states: *"...it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning."*

Are there any medical exemptions?

If your son has a health or disability reason for not wearing a face mask, please inform your Key Stage Administrator. We would not want any student or staff member to feel uncomfortable about this.

Why do the masks have to be plain and dark?

We don't want the masks to be a distraction from learning.

Where will my child need to wear the face mask?

Inside in communal areas – which means mainly corridors where social distancing is difficult to maintain. For Year 12 students, this will include their communal area (former canteen) and for Year 13 students, the Sixth Form Centre. While students are eating, they do not need to have their face mask on. Students will have to wear a face mask during Benediction in the Chapel and during the Sacrament of Reconciliation (W/b Monday 30th November). Collective Worship will not be taking place in the Chapel from Thursday 5th November. We will be resorting back to a recorded presentation for the students.

Attendance today, Monday 2nd November – Excellent!

	Monday
Year 7	98%
Year 8	97%
Year 9	98%
Year 10	98%
Year 11	94%
Year 12	89%
Year 13	92%

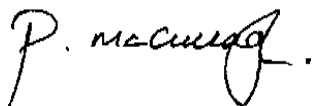
Reminder: School closure on Tuesday 24th November - training for teachers

Our teaching staff members have now been provided with their new I.T hardware and have been trained on conducting virtual Parent's Evenings. The purpose of the training on Tuesday 24th November is on transferring from 'Zoom' to a new learning platform from January 2021.

The first virtual Parents Evening takes place from 3.00pm on Thursday 19th November (for the parents/carers of Yr 10 students). Students will be dismissed from 2.30pm on this day and there will be a slightly later start on Friday 20th November. Students will be permitted on site from 9.15am and will be going to Form time at 9.45pm. The rest of this day will run as timetabled.

Have a good week.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh
Headteacher