



KBO/JBI
26 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, late last night the government changed their advice surrounding the wearing of face masks in school. Previously they had said that the wearing of masks should not be necessary in any school. This has now been updated and the Department for Education has stated;

"Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.

In addition, the government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as [listed on gov.uk](#), the government's guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning."

Bristol currently has an incredibly low rate of Covid-19 infection and transmission and as a school we have taken a number of precautions to minimise any risk, as outlined in previous correspondence to you and available on the [website](#). Therefore, in line with the above government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory in any area of the school.

However, I absolutely recognise that some students and parents will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask and I am very happy for them to do so. It is essential that when wearing a face mask, rules are followed to ensure they're used safely and are fitting with the high expectations of our school.

Rules on face coverings at Blaise High School:

1. Unless we experience a local lockdown in our area, face coverings remain optional for staff and students
2. All masks worn must be plain coloured with no patterns, logos or motifs
3. Students who deliberately wear their masks incorrectly, e.g. on their chin or forehead, will be asked to remove their mask for the day
4. Students wearing a mask should also bring a resealable plastic bag to place the mask in when they are not using it (e.g. when eating)

Continued

The guidance states: "Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided." We therefore recommend that students do not wear masks in classrooms. However, we recognise that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridors and/or in the classroom, we are happy for them to do so.

Should there be local restrictions or a change in guidance from PHE and/or the DfE, this guidance may be reviewed. Current guidance from the DfE can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

We want all students to feel safe and excited about returning to school and are very much looking forward to having them back. Please do speak with your child/children about this so they are aware.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of the key dates for the start of term:

- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September: Staff Inset Days
- Thursday 3rd September: Year 7 only
- Friday 4th September: Year 7, Year 11 only and Resource Base students only
- Monday 7th September: All Year groups

Yours faithfully



Ms K Brown
Headteacher