

29 November 2021

Dear Parents

Wearing of Face Masks in school.

As you are aware, Government guidance has been updated over the weekend. From tomorrow, 30 November 2021, the following guidelines are to be followed with regard to facemask wearing and those considered to be exempt:

'Where pupils in year 7 (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2020) and above are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained'.

For years 7-11 this will be the school restaurant and during Community activities. For Sixth Form it will mean in the Zone teaching spaces and café. We will be returning to a COVID socially distanced restaurant, where masks will need to be worn whilst queuing for food and whilst sat at the tables, unless students are eating.

Students who are exempt were issued a lanyard previously, the school lanyard will indicate to all staff that they are exempt and this will ensure that they are not asked to wear a face mask. For year 7 and new admissions, who were not with us during these measures, please inform your students Head of Learning Community, who will arrange one for you. An overview of exemptions can be seen below:

Exemptions

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:

- *cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties.*
- *speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate. The same exemptions will apply in education and childcare settings and you should be sensitive to those needs, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.'*

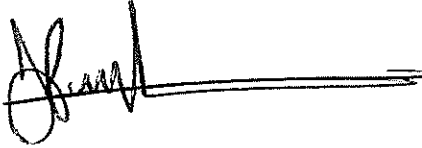
We would also like you to reiterate the importance of students not coming into physical contact with each other or sharing food and drink. If this behaviour continues after a reminder, we will contact you and request your support.

At NTC, we have updated our risk assessment to reflect this recommended practice.

We would also like to remind you of the importance to continue with the twice weekly lateral flow testing at home. This has helped us to date, prevent an outbreak in school. Further testing kits will be issued to students today, should your child not receive one, please direct them to the zone hubs or email Mrs Foord on foordm@ntc.kent.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter. We are all really hoping that these measures will be lifted after Christmas and we can all look forward to celebrating the festive period with family and loved ones.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jane Partridge', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jane Partridge
Headteacher