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Latest WHO Guidance Face Coverings

Dear Parents

My apologies if you have already received this email from your hsm. We have received reports of some email blockages via Outlook from hsm mailings.

As we finalise arrangements for next week, in light of the latest [WHO guidance](#), and a recent change in guidance to English schools, I write to inform you that all pupils must return to school with a face covering. If you are following the news, this should come as no particular surprise to families and hopefully is seen as reassuring at a time where everyone has become used to having their own covering to access shops and so on.

We recommend every pupil has at least two non-disposable masks. As part of our hierarchy of controls, our revised plan will be that face coverings will be required in the following settings / times where distancing is made harder:

- at the end of lessons and moving between classes indoors
- moving up the stairs to the dining hall
- assemblies / larger meetings – which are only taking place occasionally and in year-group bubbles
- in school minibus transport (which users will have already been made aware of)
- in private cars, when lift sharing is unavoidable (with someone out of, for example, a family bubble)

And of course:

- on public transport (a precondition for all users in the UK – but we recommend pupils avoid using public transport if they can)
- in local shops (on town leave).

It is important to note that pupils may wear their coverings at other times too if they so wish.

With thanks and best wishes

Cris Symes

Second Master

NB some detailed advice on masks:

Masks should be of [appropriate](#) design and functionality, which should be hand-washed with soap at least daily. Pupils should keep one on their person in a plastic bag (which should be changed regularly). Disposable masks (if used) must be changed regularly and disposed in lidded bins. Pupils should follow guidance on donning and doffing of any face mask, to reduce transmission risk of bugs in general, as well as Covid-19. Our risk-management decisions will evolve further in light of experience. We hope that we will not find ourselves having to challenge pupils for constantly forgetting their mask or end up having to invest in supplies of disposable masks causing disruption if we had to keep issuing them to pupils (and charging them for the cost) and we thank you for your support in avoiding this situation occurring. Obviously, any pupil who has a medical reason for not being able to wear a mask should identify themselves and the reason to their hsm as soon as possible in order that the staff can be made aware.