



1st November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following Mr Johnson's announcement about a national lockdown from Thursday and alongside rising rates of infection in North Yorkshire and our neighbouring local authorities of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, I have reviewed the school's risk assessment and I am introducing the use of face coverings for students and staff in communal areas inside the school buildings where social distancing is not possible.

The most important thing for us is continuity of education for our young people; introducing this measure at this critical time will enable us, we hope, to maintain the high levels of attendance we have seen from our students so far, and maintain adequate staffing levels to deliver quality teaching and learning.

This measure will be compulsory from **Thursday 5th November**: this coincides with the introduction of the national lockdown and provides time for us to communicate with students and staff, and for you to ensure you have an adequate supply of face coverings for your child. Although we will share information about the correct use of face coverings with students over the coming days, we would appreciate you doing this at home too. If your son/daughter chooses to use a reusable face covering, he/she should also bring a small sealable food bag, or similar, to store it in when it is not being worn. If your son/daughter prefers to use disposable masks, there are bins around school to use for safe discarding.

Students will wear face coverings when:

- moving between lessons inside the building;
- in the dining areas but not eating including the queues; and,
- at any other time they are inside the building on breaks.

They will not be required to wear them in lessons as this will have a detrimental effect on teaching and learning, although they can if they choose to. Other measures are in place in the classroom such as: adequate ventilation; 2m+ distance to teachers; and all students facing forwards.

Thank you for your continued support, we are all building this bridge while we walk upon it and a flexible approach is key to our success. At this stage, the only information I have about the national changes is that which the Prime Minister communicated last night; if anything further emerges that you need to know about, I will be in touch straight away.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. H. L. Millett
Headteacher

