

4 November 2020

Dear parents and carers

Changes to Roundwood Park's COVID-19 Arrangements from Thursday 5 November

Thank you for your support to date as we strive to keep the school community safe during the current COVID pandemic.

The government has just now published its guidance for schools following the announcement of new lockdown measures which take effect from tomorrow, Thursday 5 November. The expectation is that schools will ensure any changes required in light of national restrictions are in place as soon as practically possible, and by Monday 9 November at the latest. We are writing to inform you of changes which will need to be put in place.

Face coverings

The guidance now states:

"In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This was already the case for pupils in year 7 and above, and staff and visitors for those schools that were in areas where local alert level 'high' and 'very high'.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.

Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college."

From Thursday 5 November we are asking all staff and students to come to school with a face mask which covers their nose and mouth. These face masks must be non-offensive in design, ideally plain or of a simple pattern.

Having a mask in school will now be considered part of our uniform requirements and students should have one with them at all times. We would ask that you send them to school with a clean mask each day and we would suggest that they should have a spare with them in case the original mask gets damaged, lost or dropped. It is also good practice for students to keep their masks in a plastic bag when they are not being worn.

When will students have to wear face masks at school?

Face masks must be worn when lining up for lessons, lunch queues and whenever they are moving around inside the school buildings. These must be worn even if they are only making a short journey through a corridor. They must also wear their face mask at all times on public transport.

We also strongly recommend that masks are worn in indoor communal or social areas where students are not eating or drinking. An example of this would be the Sixth Form common room area or library, especially at break or lunchtimes.

Students will not need to wear their masks when they are outside in their zones at break or lunchtime but they may choose to do so.

Do students need to wear a face mask in lessons?

If a student wishes to keep their mask on in lessons they will be able to do so, but it will not be compulsory.

Can my child be exempt from wearing a face mask?

Yes. We are aware that some students may not be able to wear a face mask because of underlying medical issues and if that is the case for your child then please contact their Head of Year to discuss your child's situation.

What happens if my child forgets their face mask?

A small number of spare masks will be kept in school for emergencies but if students forget repeatedly there may be a charge for these. Students may collect a mask from either the KS3, KS4 or KS5 pastoral offices.

Social distancing when travelling to and from school

As new national restrictions come into force tomorrow, it is important that students are aware and adhere to these new restrictions. Government guidelines state:

"In general, you must not meet people socially. However, you can exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with, your support bubble (or as part of a childcare bubble), or with one other person. You should minimise time spent outside your home. When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household - meaning the people you live with - or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions (e.g. wearing a face covering)."

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

Whilst students are able to mix within their bubble in school, a different rule applies when outside and students must adhere to these government regulations. We ask you to remind your son or daughter that if they are seen gathering or walking in groups of more than two people when leaving the school site or in town then it is possible that they could be cautioned by the police.

If you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, I would like to thank the whole Roundwood Park community for the exceptional support they have shown for each other throughout this challenging time as we work hard to protect our students' health and education, and the health of our staff.

Yours faithfully



Alan Henshall
Headteacher