

5th November 2020

Dear Parent and Carer

The Department for Education has confirmed that, in conjunction with new national restrictions applying from 5 November 2020 in schools where students in Year 7 and above are educated, there is an expectation that face coverings should be worn by adults and students (in all year groups Year 7 and above).

This requirement is for areas outside classrooms and when moving around communal areas in the school e.g. corridors where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Within classrooms, the government guidance to schools continues to state that face coverings could have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided. Whilst in the classroom we ask that the face covering is placed into a clear bag. However, it remains the case that any students or staff who wish to wear a face covering whilst in the classroom are entitled to do so.

The new government guidance also clarifies that face coverings should be worn by students in Year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school and this is consistent with requirements for those travelling on public transport.

Your cooperation in ensuring your child comes to school with a face covering and a clear bag (or other suitable container) is appreciated, as we only have a very small contingency supply to meet needs arising for those who forget to bring one.

We will give further guidance to students about the safe wearing of face coverings and the safe storage of them between use in school.

It is also recognised in accordance with government guidance that some individuals will be exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:

- Cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment of disability.
- Speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate.
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Please let me know via email: jabbott@budmouth-aspirations.org if this applies to your child and I assure you that staff will be sensitive to those needs.

You may also find the following web address helpful, providing a link to more general government guidance about the use of face coverings: <https://.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

On a separate note, we had an unplanned fire evacuation today due to a faulty sensor. The students conducted themselves very well indeed and it was pleasing to see that although the notice came out very late yesterday, the vast majority of them were wearing their face mask.

Yours sincerely

Justin Abbott
Medical / Health & Safety Officer