



28 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the advice from the WHO and the DfE change on the use of face coverings in English Schools, we have as a Trust decided that:

- All secondary age students will be expected to wear a face covering in corridors and any communal areas where social distancing outside of the year group bubble is difficult.

You will find full details in the **WeST Guidance on Face Coverings in Secondary Schools** attached with this letter.

Face coverings do not need to be worn:

- By any students who is exempt (please see the exemption guidance for further information).
- By students or teachers in the classroom or during lessons, but both are still free to do so if they wish.
- Whilst consuming food and drink at break and lunch times.
- Whilst students are mixing with students within their own year group bubble only.

This approach to face coverings has been supported by Plymouth City Council. Yesterday the Plymouth City Director of Public Health and Director of Childrens' Services wrote to all Plymouth Schools strongly recommending that face coverings are worn in communal areas in secondary settings.

This additional preventative measure now gives Plymstock School the opportunity for students to move across our site between lessons and access their subject specialist teachers in their rooms, rather than remaining all day in the same classroom.

However, in order to mitigate risk and follow the DfE guidance on the re-opening of schools, we will also be incorporating the following:

- A strictly enforced one-way system (i.e not passing each other F2F)
- Staff supervising lesson change over
- Teacher presence to enforce corridor behaviour (Teachers will also wear masks in corridors)
- No queuing in corridors - students will go straight in to the classroom.
- Hand sanitizer on entry to classroom before and after removing masks.
- Procedures for the removal and safe storage of masks on entry, they can't be just placed on the desks. Training our students on how to take a mask off. E.g storage, avoid touching their faces, not touching their mouths.

Other measures remain unchanged, we will still be using:

- Separate year group bubbles where students are registered; returning at break and lunch to their year group areas.
- Separate pastoral year team bases, our pastoral base the HUB will remain closed to students from different year groups.
- Staggered start times
- Monitoring of children at break and lunch by Senior Leadership Team, duty staff, members of our pastoral team and at lunch by Meal Time Assistants
- The Galley will remain closed to students, however, we will be operating our Galley (school canteen) to provide students with access to food with a reduced menu that can be pre-ordered. Please see the letter here for details: <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/School-Meal-Ordering-27-August.pdf>

You will find a copy of this letter and updated answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs) on our dedicated page here: <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/re-opening-september-2020/>

We are really looking forward to the full return of all students in September and we have aimed not to issue unnecessary and contradictory information.

Your patience and understanding in this unprecedented year with ongoing and short notice updates from the Department of Education is very much appreciated.

We want your son/daughter to have the very best educational experience possible, in an environment that will be as close to normal and as familiar as possible, but one in which safety of us all is of the utmost importance.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall
Headteacher