

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020



HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Dear parent/carer,

We received this message yesterday afternoon from Cath Peeling Assistant Director for Education.

Following conversations with Kate Ardern our Director of Public Health, please find new advice below regarding face coverings.

### **Regarding the use of face masks in secondary education**

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread of which is being seen in Wigan at the present time, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. DfE will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice.

The default position for areas in national government intervention is that education and childcare settings will remain open. An area moving into national intervention with restrictions short of education and childcare closure is described as 'tier 1'. There are no changes to childcare, and the only difference in education settings is that 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.

Some individuals are 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 or disability.
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate.

Wigan has entered Red level on the national escalation system with new infection rates currently at 79.1 per 100,000 population.

As Wigan are entering into "tier 1" of government intervention the guidance applies for all pupils year 7 upwards and adults within the educational setting.

What does this mean at Oakfield?

As a precautionary measure learners and staff can wear a sensible face covering on corridors if they are not exempt.

Just to remind you of the systems we have in school to support social distancing:

- There is a one way system on all corridors.
- Learners are only on corridors and in shared spaces with other learners from their bubble.
- Transitions around the building are minimal. Learners remain in class and teachers transition to them for their individual lessons.
- There are staggered breaks and lunches for every bubble.
- The entrance and exit to school from transport is staggered to allow bubbles to keep separate.

We would also promote that any learners, who are not exempt, wear face coverings on transport whilst coming into school and going home from school.

Yours sincerely,

S Allen

Mrs S Allen  
Head of School