



Thursday 17th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **COVID-19 Local Restrictions**

I must apologise for this late letter. We received direction from the local authority regarding the wearing of face coverings in school, late this afternoon.

Today the government announced new restrictions in the North-East of England. With effect from tomorrow, Friday 18th September, all staff, students and visitors should wear face coverings when moving around corridors and when in indoor, communal areas in school.

#### **Type of face covering:**

There are a wide range of face coverings being used currently. As there are several times within the day that pupils move within the school, if your child is using a single-use face covering, please could they bring several for the day. If they are using a reusable face covering, please could they bring a sealable plastic bag to keep their face covering in, when not in use. Students may wear face coverings in lessons if they wish to.

#### **Some pupils and staff are exempt from wearing face coverings because:**

- They can't put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- They are speaking to, or providing assistance to, someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

If you believe your son/daughter should be exempt from wearing a mask, then please could you put this in writing along with the reasons for the exemption and mark for my attention.

I would like to commend our pupils in all years for the way they have conducted themselves as we have started this new term. We are proud of them. School is very different from their experiences in their past and we have had to make many changes to our normal routines! This is yet another change and I am sure that together, and with your support, we will manage this transition quickly and well.

With very kind regards and again, my apologies for this late letter,

Dr J Gorch  
Deputy Chief Executive Office