



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Dear Parent/Carer

15 November 2021

I recently attended a meeting with the Local Authority, along with all of the Headteachers across the Primary and Secondary Schools in St Helens. There is a genuine concern with the Covid-19 infection numbers currently in the borough and as an authority we want to take steps to reduce the number of cases, which in return will reduce the days of education missed by students. I am also very conscious that we are now in the run-up to the Christmas break where families from all ages will be mixing. The academy has a duty of care to the community to make sure our measures are reducing the spread of the virus. The hope is that the roll out of the vaccination for 12-15 year olds will also make significant impact.

In agreement with the Local Authority and other Secondary Schools in St Helens, **on Wednesday 17 November it will become compulsory for all staff and students to wear face coverings on corridors and in communal areas.**

We will be speaking to the students so that they are aware. Please can you also support, by ensuring that your child attends the academy with a face covering each day from Wednesday 17 November.

- It will be compulsory for students to wear face coverings as they enter site and make their way to their form room.
- At the end of each lesson, students will stand behind their chairs, put their face coverings on and then make their way to either their next lesson or for break/lunch.
- Face coverings will need to be worn in the queue for the Dining Room but not when sat at tables.
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings outside during breaks or lunches but they will be required to put them back on when they re-enter the building, and also if they spend their break/lunch inside the Covered Walkway or Plaza areas.
- Students will also wear face coverings when they are dismissed at the end of the day until they leave the building.
- It will not be compulsory to wear face coverings during lessons but staff/students can continue to do so if they wish.

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Can parents and carers please ensure their child has a face covering with them before leaving for the academy each morning. Students who do not have a face covering will be stopped at the gate and provided with a disposable face covering at the cost of 50p. Parents will be contacted immediately to ensure that you are aware that they have arrived without a face covering and to arrange payment if the student was unable to pay on the gate.

Previously, our students have been excellent in wearing face coverings when asked to do so, with only reminders needed for some students when they have forgot to put them back on. We know that there are circumstances where a student or a member of staff might be exempt from wearing a face covering and we do already have a concise list of those students from the last academic year.

Can any parents or carers of Year 7 students please let us know if any of these circumstances may apply to their child, so that we can arrange for them to be added to our list and also to be allocated an exemption lanyard.

I understand that there may be a range of views on Covid-19 and face coverings, but it is important that we take all measures possible to protect the most vulnerable in our community. Wearing a face covering onsite is a small price to pay if it adds an extra layer of security for students, teachers and their families.

Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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