



Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

September 2020

Face Coverings and Public Transport

Dear Parents & Carers

As discussed in previous correspondence, the situation around Covid19 is a constantly changing picture with guidance being updated on a regular basis. I wanted to write to you now the recent guidance has been published and with an update on students who travel to the academy on bus 733.

Currently schools in England are **not** being asked to make masks compulsory unless they are located in regions which are in increased lockdown. At the academy, we have made the stance that students and staff **can wear them** if they wish. We do **recommend** that students and staff wear them on corridors, especially during lesson changeovers. Students **do** need to wear masks if travelling to the academy on public transport. The Department for Education have asked if possible, for students to find alternative methods of travel to reduce the numbers on public transport but I understand this will not be possible for all students. We have managed to arrange for the 733 bus to delay its departure until 15:05 for years 8 and 10. Students must only sit with students from within their bubble on any public transport.

Any mask worn on site needs to be plain and needs to be worn in a safe manner. Guidance on this can be found via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>.

The new guidance has also contributed towards contingency planning to ensure students continue to receive an excellent quality of education, regardless of the Covid19 situation locally. The official guidance is generic to a range of settings, below breaks down how that would look at the academy:

- 1) No local lockdown and the academy open with students located in bubbles. Students will still access their full curriculum. Face masks are recommended but not compulsory. Any student who needs to self isolate will be provided with online learning so they do not fall behind. **This is the stage we are at as we open this week.**
- 2) Localised lockdown but the academy will still be fully open with students located in bubbles. Students will still access their full curriculum. Face masks become compulsory on lesson changeovers. Any student who needs to self isolate will be provided with online learning so they do not fall behind.

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- 3) The Covid situation in St Helens becomes worse and so the academy is enforced to reduce the number of students on site. All year groups would have a rota where they attend some time on site for lessons and the rest of their learning would be accessed electronically from home. Vulnerable students and children of key workers would be provided full time provision.
- 4) The academy is enforced to close, only being able to provide on site provision for vulnerable students and children of key workers. All other students would engage with online learning.

I think I speak for everyone by saying we are hopeful that stages 2, 3 and 4 will not be required.

If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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