

Dear Parents and Carers

New National Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings

Following an announcement by the Deputy First Minister on Tuesday 25 August 2020, there has been a change to the guidance for all staff, children and young people across Scotland regarding the use of face coverings in school. **The changes to the guidance will take effect from Monday 31 August.**

The new guidance states that :

- adults and young people in secondary schools should wear a face covering when moving about the school in corridors and communal areas (including toilets), where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain
- adults and children and young people aged 5 and over should wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport.

This guidance will apply across Tayside and Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils are now be revising local guidance to reflect this update.

For us at Forfar Academy this will mean that face coverings should be worn on entering the building, in corridors between classes, if a pupil is out of a class for any reason and in the pupil break and lunch zones. Obviously face coverings do not require to be worn when eating and drinking in the school. A reminder too that face coverings must be worn by pupils if they are in local shops during lunch breaks and will also be required on all school transport. The new advice states that face coverings are not required in classrooms and learning areas. However, as before, face coverings may be worn in classrooms by young people and teachers should they wish to.

Staff and pupils should ensure they :

- bring their own face coverings to school;
- store these safely in a washable, sealable bag or container when not in use;
- wash reusable face coverings in hot water at the end of each day; and
- safely and hygienically dispose of disposable face coverings after use.

Please remember that a face covering can be as simple as a scarf, snood or other piece of cloth which covers the nose and mouth.

We know that there are some adult and young people who cannot wear a face covering due to medical reasons or because of particular barriers to learning. In these few cases those adults and young people will not be required to wear a face covering. **If this is the case for your child we would ask that you contact your child's Pupil Care & Support teacher at the school who will make sure staff are aware.**

We know that there will be times when pupils will forget to bring their face covering to school. If this is the case pupils will be able to pick up a disposable face covering

for the day from the Atrium and Café area when they enter the school in the morning.

If you think you may have difficulty in sourcing a face covering for your child please contact your child's Pupil Care & Support Teacher at the school. We have a small supply of cloth face coverings and we will be able to provide you with one.

Finally, can I say that our school community have done an amazing job in following the new procedures we have put in place to keep everyone as safe as we can. Our procedures for sanitising, wiping down work stations, the one way system and staggered break and lunch times are all working really well thanks to the responsible behaviour of our pupils. Thank you for your support with this and please keep reinforcing the importance of these measures which allow for schools to open

Yours sincerely

Kas Mohamed

Head Teacher

Further information on face coverings is available from the Scottish Government website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-2/>

Full face covering guidance is available on this link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>