**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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**Date: 27th August 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Wearing of facemasks in secondary schools.**

On Tuesday 25th August 2020 the Education Secretary, John Swinney, announced that with effect from Monday 31st August 2020 facemasks must be worn in all Scottish Secondary Schools.

This national advice applies to all pupils over the age of 12 and facemasks should be worn in all corridors, stairwells, toilets and all communal areas such as the school canteen. This will also apply to areas such as the school assembly hall and the games hall which we are currently using on wet days to prevent pupils from getting soaked.

**As you can imagine it will be very difficult to manage pupils in S1/2 who may be 12 or under so I would ask that as far as possible all pupils in our school comply with this measure. This is for their own safety and protection and that of the rest of the school community.**

As things currently stand this instruction does not apply to inside the actual classroom however I would encourage all pupils who felt that social distancing was difficult in any classroom to wear the facemask in this environment too. Pupils are not required to wear facemasks in the playground but should remain socially distant from their peers.

Staff will also be expected to wear face masks under the same circumstances as pupils and I would ask that if you are required to visit school for any reason that you too comply with this request.

A large supply of facemasks is being provided to the school by North Ayrshire Council however we are asking that any pupil who does not have their own facemask and therefore requires one to be provided lets either our Campus Police Officer PC Barlas, their pastoral care teacher or their depute head know by close of school on Friday 28th August 2020.

For some pupils it is not possible to wear a facemask. This may be due to a medical condition for example Asthma or another respiratory condition. Where this is the case pupils will be given a laminated pass which excuses them from wearing a facemask and they should carry this with them at all times during the school day. Where school is not currently aware of such a medical condition we require this to be verified by parents/carers before the pass is provided to pupils.

I hope this information is useful to you and I thank you in advance for helping us maintain a safe start to school by supporting this latest safety precaution.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy