



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

5 November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are well at this challenging time.

Following the announcement over the weekend about a second lockdown, we have been awaiting government guidance about what this means for schools. This finally arrived in school yesterday afternoon. The guidance can be found at the following location:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020?utm_source=4%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#schools

We have read the guidance carefully and are consequently adjusting some key measures in school. I wanted to outline these changes to you in advance of Monday when they will come into effect.

Masks /Face coverings

The government guidance states that face coverings are mandatory in communal areas of secondary schools and colleges. They are still not being recommended in classrooms. Therefore, we have made the following adjustments to our policy on masks and face coverings:

- Masks must be worn by staff and students while they are in transition between lessons or rooms. This is both when they are inside and outside.
- This includes the canteen, hall, corridors, offices, toilets, or any other shared spaces.
- If staff or students are outside at break or lunch, they do not need to wear a mask, but should do if they are close to other students or staff.
- Masks should not be worn in lessons by staff or students.
- Staff and students who have a medical exemption to not wear a mask can continue to not wear one but should display their exemption lanyard. The school will keep a record of those with medical exemptions, so please contact the school to let us know if this applies to your child with details of the exemption.
- In all cases masks should be put on and taken off carefully following the guidance. When not in use they should be stored in a sealed plastic wallet (we will supply one to all members of the school community).

The last point is particularly important, as handling the mask in the wrong way can increase the risk of transmission. The guidance on how to handle a mask can be found here: <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>

Please look for the section titled 'How to wear a face covering'.

We will be creating a student friendly version of this, which will be shared with all students on a regular basis. One of the key messages will be about washing hands before and after handling a mask. We have hand sanitiser at key points across the school but would recommend that students bring their own small bottle that they can use throughout the day, especially for before and after handling their masks.

Assemblies

These have been taking place in year group bubbles, with students sitting in register order. We have decided that these will now be done virtually in tutor rooms, with pre-recorded assemblies played to students by their tutors.

After school clubs

All after school extra-curricular clubs will no longer be taking place. There will be no sports fixtures between schools or events which allow students to mix beyond their bubble. We had planned to communicate our extra-curricular offer to you this week but will suspend this until term 3. Lunchtime clubs and activities can continue, as can after school detentions, catch ups and academic support. All of these will continue to be delivered in year group bubbles with measures in place to reduce risk.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable students

Both staff and pupils who have been identified by their doctor as still considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), will be advised not to come into school. If you have received notification that this applies to your son or daughter, then please contact the school with a copy of any notification. We will then liaise with you to provide remote learning for them. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

Transport

Children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport. Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college. This does not apply to those who are exempt.

Beyond these changes, we will continue to educate our students in a safe and positive environment. The circumstances are challenging, but I continue to be impressed by the resilience and positivity of our students. I am also grateful for the expertise, professionalism, adaptability, and care shown by all our teachers and support staff.



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So far, the measures we have taken have reduced the risk and number of incidences of COVID-19 in school. To ensure this is maintained next week's assembly will focus on measures everyone in the school community needs to take to reduce the risk of transmission during the national lockdown. Please can I ask that you support this by encouraging your child to not only follow our guidance in school, but also to take care going to and from school. This means staying in year group bubbles, not being in contact with students from other schools, and heading straight home at the end of the school day.

We will continue to communicate about any changes and support in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Head of School



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