

28 August 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware, on 26<sup>th</sup> of August the Department for Education released new guidance around the wearing of face coverings in secondary schools from September. Within this guidance, they reiterate that the Chief Medical Officers from all 4 countries of the UK believe that the overall risk to children from coronavirus in relation to education settings is low. The government does not recommend that face coverings are necessary in schools generally, but that head teachers have discretion to make local decisions if they feel that their settings require a different approach, or in the event of local spikes in virus cases. They highlight a need for safe wearing of face coverings, specifying the cleaning of hands before and after touching face coverings (including when putting them on) and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. I have considered very carefully how I would like us to respond at Kings and have decided that we will do the following:

- **Face coverings will not generally be worn in school by students at this time.**
- Students should bring a face covering (mask rather than scarf) in a sealable plastic bag each day. Sealable individual bags will be available from school if necessary, but students will need their own mask. This will allow us to respond quickly to any changes required without the need for changes to our policy.
- All students will be shown how put on, take off and store their mask in a safe manner.
- Masks will not be worn by students in classrooms unless an individual student has been specifically told to do so by a doctor.
- We recommend that students do not wear masks in corridors and break times, but will allow students to do so if they feel more comfortable in doing so. They would need to demonstrate that they are putting them on, taking them off and storing them in the manner demonstrated to them.
- We will review how the queuing system for the canteen works in the first week we are back to see whether we feel face coverings will be needed.
- For **parents and visitors**, we would ask that you only enter reception by appointment and wear a face covering in the same manner you would if shopping. You will be asked to use hand sanitiser on arrival.
- For **staff**, clear visors will be available if they wish to wear them.

We will continue to engage with Governmental health experts at all times and keep parents informed of changes should national policy be reviewed.

Thank you for your continued support. We are all looking forward to welcoming students in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. McKenzie  
Principal