

TLA / GPA

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure many of you will be aware, following the announcement yesterday, that the Local COVID Alert Level for Essex is moving from 'Medium' to 'High', effective from 12.01am on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

As a result of this change, we will now be obliged to amend our approach towards the wearing of face coverings in school, which is set out below:

### **General approach to face coverings (position to date)**

Up to this point, the government has not been recommending that face coverings are essential in education settings generally because a system of controls, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures. Schools and colleges have had the discretion to require face coverings in indoor communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed. We have therefore stipulated their use in some sections of two-way corridor but allowed students and staff to make their own choice in other areas.

### **Where local restrictions apply ('High' or 'Very High' alert level)**

Government guidance states that schools and colleges should take additional precautionary measures in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. These areas are defined as [areas of national government intervention](#).

**In these intervention areas, in education settings where Year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. As in the general approach, it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.**

This means that from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, it will be our expectation that all staff and students will wear a face covering when moving around the school buildings or if they are gathering inside due to wet break arrangements. There will be no requirement to wear a face covering outside the building or in classrooms.

If you feel your child should be exempt from wearing a face covering for medical reasons, please contact us with the relevant information.

### **Safe wearing of face coverings**

The safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Whilst the wearing of face coverings is the key change for education settings, there are additional changes under High COVID Alert Level that are likely to affect you. Please familiarise yourself with the restrictions by reading the guidance detailed on the government website, which can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Your assistance in encouraging your child to adhere to the guidance issued by the government is, as always, hugely appreciated and will make our difficult task in managing this unwelcome situation that much easier. I will continue to keep you updated as and when further guidance and expectations are issued. In the meantime, stay safe and well, and many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T. Lawn  
Headteacher