

28th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move nearer to reopening next week, here are a few more details to supplement the guidance issued last week (letter still available on our website www.hydehighschool.uk).

1. Face Masks

The government has now amended its guidance relating to face masks in school and so we can now clarify the situation at Hyde.

From 1 September 2020, new advice will apply to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils in schools and other education institutions that teach pupils in Years 7 and above in England. This guidance can be found on the Government [website](#). In areas where local restrictions are in place, including Tameside, it will be mandatory for students and staff to wear a face covering in school areas where social distancing is more difficult.

The wearing of face coverings puts in place an additional prevention measure to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19, alongside other important measures we have in place in school including:

- Social distancing where possible;
- Hand washing for at least 20 secs with soap and water or hand sanitisation;
- Encouraging good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach;
- Enhanced cleaning in the school/educational setting.

I am therefore writing to you to inform you that **when your child returns to school next week, they will be required to wear a face covering in the school**, in areas where it may be particularly difficult to maintain social distancing as staff and pupils are moving around the premises.

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly reassure parents and pupils that the guidance has not come into place because schools are considered a high risk environment for COVID-19, but that the wearing of face coverings is an additional prevention measure to help ensure the transmission of COVID-19 remains low in the borough.

Please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a face mask every day. The national guidance definition of a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. Pupils will be required to wear a washable, **plain coloured mask** during any movement around the school building.

At Hyde, instances where staff and pupils are requested to wear a face covering include arrival at school, movement between lessons, breaks, lunchtimes and some indoor PE sessions.

Face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom as the school has put in place a system of controls for minimising risk, including keeping children in consistent groups or bubbles and regular cleaning and hand sanitising. Face coverings can have a negative impact on communication, learning and teaching. However, if you wish your child to wear their mask during lessons, this will be allowed.

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly. Clear instructions will be provided to staff and pupils on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings to avoid unknowingly increasing the risks of transmission of the virus; here is a summary:

- Wash or sanitise hands before putting on a face mask.
- Ensure that the mask covers your nose and mouth.
- Avoid wearing your face mask around your neck or forehead.
- Avoid touching the parts of the face mask in contact with your nose and mouth.
- Only handle your face mask by the straps, ties or clips.
- Do not share a face mask with anyone else.
- If using a single-use mask, dispose of it carefully after use.
- Reusable masks should be stored in a plastic bag.
- Do not place a face mask on a table.
- Clean hands thoroughly after removal of your mask.
- Face masks must be washed regularly in line with the washing instructions for the fabric. Normal detergent can be used and they can be washed and dried with other laundry.
- Face masks must be thrown away if damaged.

Before returning to school, we would like to encourage parents and carers to support their child to feel comfortable wearing a face covering, by practising the handling of the face covering, putting it on and off safely, using the guidance provided, and storing it whilst not in use.

Remember – **plain face masks only**, patterns/designs are not acceptable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, their families and staff in supporting this additional prevention measure. If you have any questions or concerns or you are struggling to access face coverings or you feel your child will be unable to wear a face covering, please contact school (0161 366 7533 ~ Reception reopens full time on Tuesday 1st September).

2. Lockers

As we reopen, there will be no access to lockers for any pupils. We will review this once pupils are fully settled and all new routines and procedures are well established.

3. School ties

As usual, new ties will be issued to all Year 7 and Year 10 pupils at the start of term. If any Year 10 pupils have a blue tie that they could return (to Student Services), we would be very grateful.

4. School Uniform Grant

A reminder that we are committed to supporting all pupils eligible for Free School Meals with a uniform grant of up to £40 per child; this can be claimed on an annual basis for your child/children during their time at Hyde High School. You can order uniform from our school supplier (Monkhouse) up to the value of £40 for each child. The order forms are available from the school Reception.

5. No access to the school car park - IMPORTANT

A reminder that there will be **NO ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL CAR PARK** to drop off or collect your child/ren (other than that agreed for pupils with additional needs).

6. ParentPay

We would advise all parents who wish to credit their child's account for lunches etc. to do so via ParentPay so that your child does not have to touch the biometric scanners. If you have not yet signed up and have mislaid your activation letter, you can request another one via admin@hydehighschool.uk - please put ParentPay in the subject line.

7. Hyde High School

Just to confirm that we are now officially **HYDE HIGH SCHOOL** and our email addresses, website etc. have been amended to reflect this.

We are now ready and waiting to welcome all our pupils into school next week and we will take the time to go through all the tweaks and changes with them as we begin this next phase. My previous letter with details of start times for each year group is available on our school website

(<https://www.hydehighschool.uk/news/newsletter-for-parentscarers-regarding-the-start-of-school-in-september/>). It will be more important than ever that pupils live up to our continued high expectations in terms of hard work and good behaviour - we simply can't afford to lose any more time if we are to ensure that our learners are able to benefit from their entitlement to an excellent education. Our pupils need to be ready too and still have a few days to sort out any remaining hair colours, hair styles, false nails, false eyelashes etc. that have been fine during lockdown but don't conform to our rules; please support us with this to ensure a smooth start next week.

We have a robust and comprehensive risk assessment which has been reviewed and approved by the Health and Safety experts at Tameside MBC to verify that we are meeting all relevant guidance. We have a Covid Committee which meets fortnightly to review all measures and this will continue for the foreseeable future; we will also listen to feedback from pupils, parents and staff so that we can allay any concerns and ensure the best possible educational environment given the current restrictions. We are very aware that Covid-19 continues to present us with an ever-changing landscape and I am sure that new guidance will be a regular feature of our 'new normal'; we will endeavour to communicate regularly and clearly with you over the coming weeks and months. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you again for your support and patience throughout this unprecedented period - let's get back to school!

Best wishes,



Andrea Radcliffe

Headteacher

