



THE GRANGE SCHOOL

Mr V Murray – Headteacher

2 November 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Re: National Lockdown and the wearing of face coverings in school

I hope that students were able to enjoy their half-term and come back refreshed and ready to learn. We come back to school after hearing the news about a national lockdown and one of the factors behind the lockdown is in trying to control the rate of infection, so that we can keep schools open.

They say a week in politics is a long time and as we know, from Thursday, the country goes into lockdown. Buckinghamshire was in Tier 1 under 'medium risk' but as from Thursday, will also be in lockdown and as such, the school's position regarding face coverings will change.

I appreciate that we face a continual period of change and that this can cause anxiety. It is important that I try my best not to add to this but the national lockdown is a significant marker and as we move into the winter months, the risk of further cases heightens. I want to create as safe an environment as possible for us to maintain as much normality as we can for staff and students within the school and feel that now is the right time to move towards the wearing of face coverings in communal areas. This will apply in school from Thursday 5 November.

Prior to half-term, I explained that if we were to go into Tier 2 or Tier 3, that we adopt the position of wearing face coverings in communal areas i.e. corridors during lesson change-overs, canteen queues, indoor spaces during wet breaks and 6th form common room during breaks. The DFE have advised that 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 but this may, of course, change. If the advice does change, I will of course inform you.

My concerns regarding the number of contacts with face coverings during the school day remain the same and therefore students will need to ensure that they sanitise after handling their face covering. There is ample sanitiser round the school and in classrooms for students to be able to use this when necessary.

As is currently the case, it is perfectly reasonable for staff and students to wear face coverings before Thursday but we will be actively encouraging and challenging this from Thursday 5 November onwards.

As this is an additional control, there are steps that students will need to follow to ensure that the wearing of a face covering does not contribute to the spread of the infection. I would be grateful if you can reinforce the procedures below at home prior to Thursday.

1. On waiting and entering the school, students will be required to wear their face covering before entering the building and walking to their form room.
2. Students should sanitise their hands on entry to their form room, remove their face covering and place their face covering in a sealable plastic bag.
3. At the end of lessons, including form time, and if students are moving classroom, they must sanitise on exiting the room and should put their face covering on whilst leaving the classroom.
4. Students must sanitise on entering the next classroom. Their face covering should be removed and placed within a sealable plastic bag.
5. Students will be expected to wear face coverings on entry to the canteens and sanitise on entry and exit.
6. Students will be expected to wear face coverings in indoor spaces allocated to wet breaks.
7. 6th Form students will be expected to wear face coverings whilst in the 6th form study area at break and lunchtimes.

World Health Organisation Video

The World Health Organisation have produced a short, informative video demonstrating the safe wearing of a face-mask. We will be sharing this with students but would appreciate you reinforcing the message at home.

[How to wear a face mask](#)

Department for Education Guidance

This information is reinforced by the DFE in their guidance on how to wear a face covering:

How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

Exemptions to face coverings:

We are aware that some people are exempt from wearing [face coverings](#). This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

The same exemptions will apply at The Grange School and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs.

There is a good deal of information to take on board but please be reassured that all this will be reinforced and shared with students during form times.

Yours faithfully



Vince Murray
Headteacher