



4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Face Coverings in school from 8th March until Easter

A huge thanks to parents and students for your rapid and very positive response to the mass Covid testing for students. Over 98% of respondents have given consent, which says so much about people's willingness to support the great community effort that we are all engaged in.

I will be writing again tomorrow with further details about the return to school, but wanted to share the position that the secondary schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership will be taking in relation to the wearing of masks in school from next Monday, 8th March.

As I explained in Sunday's letter, this is a complex issue. Following significant liaison with the DfE, national educational organisations and on the basis of legal advice, the decision of LSP Trustees has been to ask the three secondary schools to follow the government guidance to ask students and staff to wear masks in classrooms where 2m social distancing can not be maintained. This applies from Monday 8th March until Easter, when the national guidance will be reviewed.

The letter from Gary Lewis (CEO) to the Secondary Headteachers is on our website here: <https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=176&type=pdf>

As I wrote in Sunday's letter, this is a moment when I am requesting your support by acting in solidarity with us on this short-term measure. Full support from our parent body (as you have shown so much over recent months and as illustrated by the exceptionally high level of consent given to testing) will enable us to concentrate on the return of students to the best possible learning experience as well as protect staff, students and (indirectly) families to the best of our ability.

As much as any 'scientific' reasons for taking this view (I acknowledge that there is some debate on this), I do believe that there is significant value in the strong message that it sends to students of how seriously we need to take the return to school at a time where there could be a sense of 'relaxation' if we are not careful. All our behaviours affect the level of risk of transmission of Covid, and if our position on masks influences student behaviour in other ways, then it will reduce the chance of any students having to self-isolate and miss a further period of school.

We will implement this expectation in the following way:

- All students, unless exempt, will be required to wear a mask when:
 - in lessons, unless social distancing of 2m can be consistently maintained (e.g. in very small Sixth Form classes)

Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership. Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (Company Number: 07662102)



- whenever moving around the school site (on the way to / from school, and between lessons / break / lunch), both inside and outside
- in 'indoor' eating / social areas, unless eating at that time.
- Students will not be required to wear a mask when:
 - in outdoor 'bubble' spaces (this is a relaxation from the position in December, in line with government guidance, and will give students a 'break' from wearing a mask at break and lunchtime)
 - when eating in designated indoor eating areas
 - when carrying out PE and some other supervised practical activities (e.g. music).

In rare circumstances where the wearing of a face covering is not advised due to medical reasons we ask parents to contact their Head of House / Head of Year. Where this is agreed these students will be given a plastic wristband - these will enable students to easily show staff that they are exempt without drawing unnecessary attention to themselves.

Students without an exemption wristband will be challenged on Health and Safety grounds and, if exemption has not been granted, will be withdrawn from face-to-face teaching. We will ensure continuity of education for any student who is removed from the classroom for refusing to comply.

Students who do not bring a facemask into school, or who lose their mask during the day, will be required to collect a disposable mask from Student Reception. These will be charged £1 and will be added to the ParentPay account. We would strongly advise students to bring at least one spare mask to school in case the first gets wet / dirty or breaks. We will be issuing all students with a new plastic bag to store their facemask when not being worn - this should be kept in the blazer pocket.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this delicate matter.

We will be working very hard during tomorrow's INSET Day to prepare for the smooth return of students from Monday (and the longer term), and we can't wait to have them back! As part of tomorrow's INSET Day, there is a brilliant opportunity for students to participate on 'The Ultimate School Trip', hosted by Millfield School - so if they fancy a trip to Australia, Italy, Japan or Iceland then see below! All students have been sent the access details as a Firefly task.

I will write again tomorrow with further guidance on our return from Monday.

With best wishes,



Tom Inman

Headteacher



The Ultimate School Trip

Friday 5 March 2021

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

School trips are great. With the world the way it is, travel banned and UK schools still operating remotely it is unlikely that schools will be able to run school trips, certainly trips abroad, for some time. Whenever I ask students what they remember from e.g. Year 7 they always say 'You remember our trip to ...' – it does not matter if it is the local museum or something further afield and more exotic, trips stick in the mind because they are an opportunity to see something new, experience something new, meet new people, ask questions and spend time with your friends. No school can provide the authentic school trip experience at the moment but we can take you somewhere away from home and show you something that is a little bit different.

On Friday 5 March we want to take students across the UK on a trip around the world visiting Australia, Italy, Japan and Iceland. Each trip will last 2-2.5 hours and will be hosted by experts. Some of the highlights are a river trip with an indigenous river guide and trip to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, tour of Pompeii with an archaeologist and an expert on the Vesuvius volcano, a cooking lesson with an Italian chef, a trip to some of the highlights of Japan, a visit to the preparations for the Tokyo Olympics, a session with a glacier expert in Iceland, an expedition across the country using only foot and packraft and much more. We are in the process of confirming our experts and exact tour itinerary and will be sending you a full tour brochure next week. You will be able to join the

trips from home with no preparation although there will be plenty of opportunity to interact. The brochure will include youtube links so that you can join the trip, and email addresses to which you can send you questions to be answered live by the experts.

The Ultimate School Trip will give you the opportunity to take some of the best things from a school trip (meeting the experts, learning something new) and perhaps leave behind some of the worst bits (long coach journeys and a dodgy pack lunch) – we hope these trips give you something to think about and perhaps you can save up to plan a trip there yourself when the pandemic is over.

We very much hope you enjoy the day.

Alexandra Haydon and the team at Millfield School, Somerset.



MILLFIELD

DISCOVER BRILLIANCE