

9 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now been back for two weeks and the students have continued to work hard and follow the cleaning protocols around the school site. As you will all be aware the number of positive Covid 19 tests continues to rise across the country and this is obviously concerning.

Despite our best efforts there are a few places in the school where the design of the buildings makes effective social distancing difficult. We have attempted to mitigate against this by changing priorities and creating one-way systems but, it is still not functioning to our satisfaction.

Therefore, although Sevenoaks is not in a designated high-risk area at present and does not come under local lockdown limitations, we are changing our guidance regarding the use of face masks in the corridors. As of Thursday, we shall strongly encourage students to wear face masks when moving between lessons, form tutors and staff will be reinforcing this message. We shall not be making the wearing of face masks compulsory as a large number of students have medical conditions that prevent the wearing of masks and we have no desire to pressurise or make these students feel uncomfortable.

It is important to reinforce that the wearing of face masks is not a magic protective shield against Covid 19. The washing of hands, good hygiene, social distancing and when Covid 19 symptoms are present, self-isolation will mitigate risk far more effectively. The face masks should be kept in a clean environment when not being worn, such as a plastic bag and students should ensure that they sanitise their hands before applying and removing the mask.

I hope parents will not see this as alarmist but as a further measure to ensure that students are able to enjoy their return to education without enforced breaks for self-isolation.

Best wishes,



David Collins
Headteacher