

Dear parents,

It has been a very busy week at the academy. I wanted to start by thanking you for your support in these unprecedented times. As Mr Latham mentioned in his letter on Thursday, we are doing all that we can to keep students and staff as safe as we possibly can in the current situation.

With Middlesbrough now being subject to local restrictions there is some important information I need to let you know.

From Monday, face coverings should be worn by all adults and students (in Years 7 and above) in areas outside classrooms when moving around communal areas. You will need to ensure that your child has a face covering. If they do not, then we will issue them with a reusable, washable face mask that they can keep. It is a legal requirement that students and staff must wear their face covering. Failure to comply with this will result in sanctions.

Some individuals 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

If your child falls into either of these categories then you must inform us as soon as is possible by contacting your child's head of year (see email addresses below). We will then issue them with an exemption card which they must carry with them at all times.

Year 7 – [s.barrett@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.barrett@macademy.org.uk)

Year 8 – [l.jones@macademy.org.uk](mailto:l.jones@macademy.org.uk)

Year 9 – [c.ball@macademy.org.uk](mailto:c.ball@macademy.org.uk)

Year 10 – [h.richardson@macademy.org.uk](mailto:h.richardson@macademy.org.uk)

Year 11 – [s.baker@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.baker@macademy.org.uk)

Please see below for government guidance on face coverings.

#### **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

**We are waiting for clarification from Public Health England as to whether or not a visor can be used instead of a face mask. Until we have this, all students (unless they are exempt) should wear a face mask in communal areas.**

#### **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

**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 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
- do not touch the front of the face covering, or the part of the face covering that has been in contact with your mouth and nose.

Once removed, store reusable face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them. If the face covering is single use, dispose of it in a waste bin. Do not put them in a recycling bin. If students are wearing a single-use face mask then this should be disposed of when it is removed; it should not be stored and then reapplied.

**What type of face coverings are permitted at the academy?**

Students should wear face coverings which are fit for purpose; they should be suitable for a school environment and should be a proper face mask not another item of clothing, for example: snood or scarf. If possible, face coverings should be plain; they should not have slogans or images on we deem a disruption to learning or to the smooth running of the academy.

**When will students need to wear face coverings?**

Students will need to wear face coverings in all communal areas. This means that they will need to be worn at all times when students are not in classrooms (this includes on the way in and out of the academy). Students will be able to remove their face coverings when eating or drinking and when sat down in their dining areas.

If students wish to wear face coverings in classrooms, it would be preferable if they could be clear masks or visors so that they can continue to contribute to lessons.

**Parents on site**

Once again, please can I remind you that parents can only come on site if you have a pre-arranged appointment. Face coverings will need to be worn by all parents inside the academy.

There are a few other things that I wanted to draw your attention to. As you may know, once we have identified a positive COVID case has been in the academy during their infectious period we have asked students to self-isolate. We have tried to get these students home as soon as is possible. If there was to be another case and your child was to be identified as a close contact and would therefore need to self-isolate, can you let us know (by replying to this email) if you would be happy for them to walk home on their own. If you would prefer to come and collect them then please just do not reply to the email. We will of course contact you should this happen.

If your child travels to the academy on the bus can I please ask you to remind them that they should be wearing a face mask.

Lastly, a message about PE. In our desire to continue to offer students a broad and balanced curriculum, we are having to adapt as best we can to the current situation. PE lessons will continue outside even in challenging weather; students are actively encouraged to bring extra layers to wear under their normal PE kit this includes dark coloured thermal base layers, black gloves, black hat, jumpers etc. For two hour lessons the amount of time students will be asked to go outside will be reduced. Therefore, it is imperative that students have their reading books with them for when they return to the classroom. If students are wet at the end of lessons then they will be instructed to get changed into their dry school uniform and will be given extra time to get changed.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Coning  
(Head of School)