



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Head of School: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT



INNOVATIVE



MINDFUL



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25th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Updated information on the use of face masks at Kingsmead school.

Based on updated guidance on the use of face masks in schools as of the 22nd of August, we are now asking **all students and staff** to wear a face mask when on corridors moving from and to teaching bases and recreation areas. This is to help protect students, staff and other adults and will enable us to play our part in preventing the spread of Covid 19. We have decided not to make this optional and we ask that all students and parents support us in this move to increase the benefits to all.

This follows the guidance from WHO;

'Children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular, when they cannot guarantee a distance of at least one metre from others and there is widespread transmission in the area' WHO guidance 22nd August 2020

The face covering needs to comply with the same requirements as those worn in any public situation, going to the shops or on a bus. We also ask that they reflect the fact that they are being used in a school and are as sensible in nature as possible. Plain / black or responsibly patterned without images or words that may cause offense.

We are not asking children or staff to wear face masks in **classrooms** because:

1. Classrooms have been organised to reduce any face to face contact
2. There are 2M teaching zones in all rooms for adults
3. Desks are forward facing to prevent face to face contact between children and staff
4. Lessons have been adapted to reduce any high-risk activity or contact
5. Doors and windows will be propped open to increase air flow where possible
6. There are 4 sanitiser zones in each room to allow for frequent sanitisation of hands
7. All desks will be wiped down at the start of the lessons
8. Classrooms and corridors will be deep cleaned every day from 2.00 pm to prevent the spread of infection

In comparison corridors are more difficult to control some of these conditions, whilst they have been marked out with a one-way system the use of face coverings would offer an additional protective measure to prevent cross infection.

We are also not asking children to wear face coverings during the 2 break times where they will usually be outside and in year group bubbles. However, for the small number of students who are sharing lockers they will need to wear face coverings when visiting another year group recreation area.



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We are not asking year 11 to wear a mask when eating in the dining room during extended 2nd break because they are in a year group bubble and social distancing of 2M is possible.

Effective use of face coverings in school

By now many children will be experienced at safely using a face mask. I would ask that in preparation for returning to school you practice this process with your child.

- Face masks should be placed over the nose and mouth, fitting snugly over the nose
- When removed the face mask should be folded so that the inside is kept contained and placed in a zip lock bag to keep any particles that have been deposited on the mask inside the bag
- Hands should be sterilised straight after removing the mask and prior to starting learning
- At the end of the lesson after packing away, hands should be sterilised, and face masks placed on faces securely before going onto the corridor.

During tutor time we plan to practice this process again to ensure that all children feel confident and can safely use their masks.

Exemption from wearing a facemask

We are aware that there are a small number of people for whom wearing a face mask is not appropriate including those with breathing difficulties. Please contact your child's progress leader if this affects your child and we will not expect them to wear a mask.

Returning to school – How can parents help us to make a smooth transition?

The following routines will help us all stay safe:

- Have a good breakfast including a drink before leaving for school
- Pack a face mask and possibly a backup face mask
- Remember a zip lock bag or other suitable storage bag for the face mask
- Air your school clothes when you get home
- Wash hands thoroughly when you get home from school and use sanitiser at the start and end of each lesson
- Pack bags the night before including water bottle and any equipment needed (see below)

What equipment to bring?

Bring everything that you will need for the day. It is more important than ever that we try to avoid the need to borrow anything during a lesson because that item will need to be carefully cleaned after. Some essential items to bring are:

- A water bottle – We have had 7 new water stations installed over the Summer to make staying hydrated easier for all students and staff



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- Equipment for your lesson – Pens, pencils, calculators, rubbers, rulers, basic geometry equipment * Books will be provided for subjects where appropriate
- Laptop if you have chosen to use one
- Food - unless you are pre ordering for delivery to your recreation area

As communicated in previous letters schools starts for all students on **Wednesday 2nd September**. All students will be in year group bubbles and should only enter by their gate. Lockers have been located by year recreation areas.

Year 7 – 8.30 – Enter by Rocky Car park and line up on the Rocky playground, we will be there with you

Year 8 – 9.30 – Enter by Kings Avenue animal management entrance gate and go straight to your form room

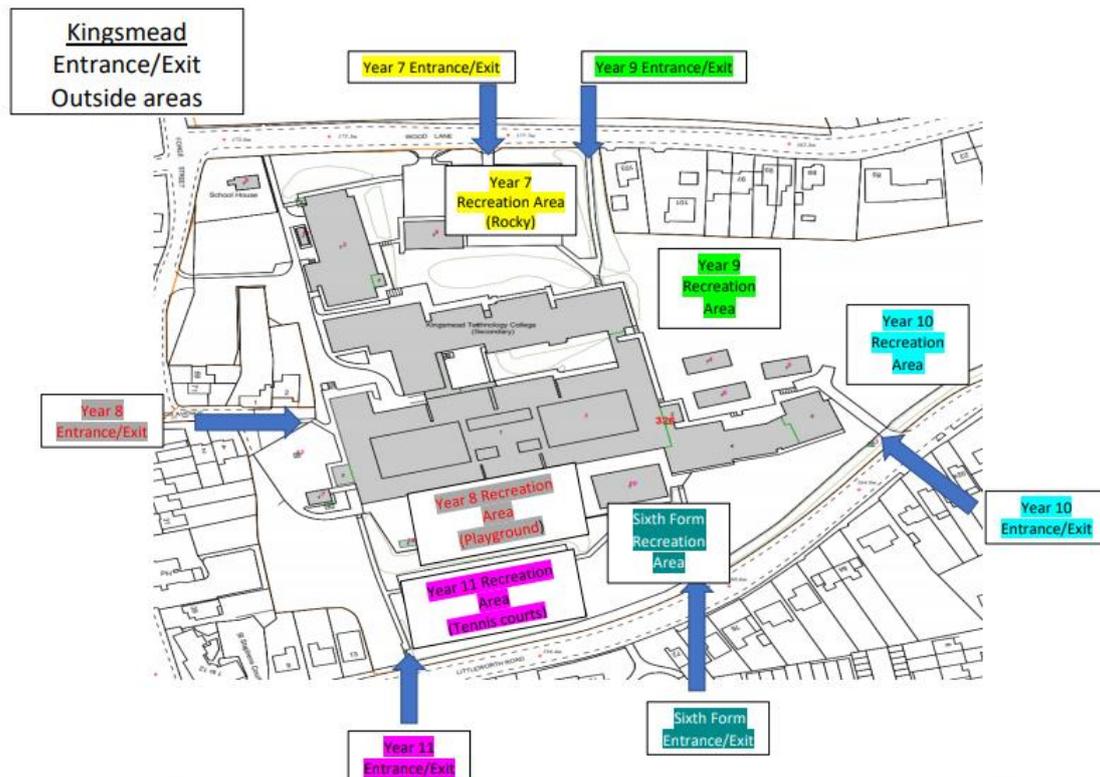
Year 9 – 9.30 – Enter by the small gate on Wood Lane (next to Rocky park) and go straight to your form room

Year 10 – 9.30 – Enter by gate at bottom of East field (off Littleworth Road next to E block) and go straight to your form room

Year 11- 9.30 – Enter by the Littleworth Road gate by Tennis courts and go straight to your form room

Year 12 – 8.30 – Enter by the middle gate on Littleworth Road and go up the steps to 6th form

Year 13 – 8.30 – Enter by the middle gate on Littleworth Road and go up the steps to your form room.





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The normal school day, starting on 3rd September now starts at 8.30 am and ends at 2.00 pm. We have asked that parents do not visit the site unless they have an appointment so that we can effectively manage visits in a Covid safe way. It is very important that all students are on time to school unless there is a real valid reason for needing to come in late.

I want to assure you that we have been working throughout the Summer to respond to guidance as it is updated, and we feel well prepared to welcome back all the children at Kingsmead safely. As always, we are here to answer your questions but know that you will all be as keen as we are to get back to some normality and focus on the education, development and well-being of our young people.

Best wishes

Maria Mincher
Head of School