

28 August 2020

Dear families,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. This year more than any other, we have probably all been in need of some respite and time with family and friends now that we are able to.

I know that many of you will have been keeping abreast of the news, which has, amongst other things included changing government guidance regarding our response to COVID-19 as members of the public; the terrible circumstances regarding the calculation, re-calculation and distribution of Year 11 and 13 grades and finally, the much-anticipated changes in guidance for the re-opening of schools in September, one of which being in relation to face masks which I cover below.

Also included in this letter are a few other brief updates and reminders for the start of term.

Face masks:

The government has left the decision over the wearing of face masks in schools up to individual Headteachers, (with the exception of schools in lockdown areas where the wearing of masks has been made compulsory in indoor communal areas where a safe distance cannot be maintained).

After due consideration for our own context, taking into account all other measures that we have put in place; we have made the decision that all students will be expected to wear a face mask as part of their uniform, but only in communal areas during the busy transition times in the day.

We are confident that all other measures put in place will reduce any risks from COVID-19 to our community but by adding in this additional precaution at the start of term, it will give us added peace of mind whilst we all get used to our new systems.

Like any other steps we have taken, the use of face masks will be under constant review and I will write to you specifically about face masks after the first two weeks of term to see if it is a measure, we feel that we need to continue with beyond that point.

Just as for the general public, you may have a child that requires an exemption from the wearing of a mask on medical grounds. Where that is the case can I please ask that you inform your form tutor or Head of School of this as early as possible. Sending your child in with a note on their first day will assist in this communication with staff.

Other points to note:

- Please only send children into school in masks that are as plain as possible and appropriate for a school setting, therefore nothing with a slogan on or images that may cause offense.
- The government have provided a link should anyone wish to make their own, [Making a face mask](#)

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“A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does”

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Headteacher: Ms Jo Meloni BA (Hons) NPQH

- When taking off their face masks, either during the school day or after travelling on public transport, students should place their mask safely in a plastic bag inside their school bag.

PE Kit:

As previously communicated students will be asked to come into their PE kit, (including Misbourne/or plain navy jogging bottoms) on days where they have PE on their timetable. This will commence after their initial introductory lesson so they should still come in full school uniform for their very first PE lesson.

Good hygiene:

Good hygiene practices remain one of the most important measures for us to adhere to as a community. As such we would like you to help us by reminding your child that they should wash their hands on first entry to the school and as frequently as possible thereafter when not in lessons. We have hand sanitiser stations in every classroom and other communal spaces around school but it would also help if you are able to provide your child with their own small bottle of hand sanitiser that they keep in their bags.

Start of term dates:

- Tuesday 1 September - INSET Day for all staff - no students on site
- Wednesday 2 September - First day back for Year 7 and Year 12 only
- Thursday 3 September - First day back for Year 8 and Year 10 (joining Y7 and Y12)
- Friday 4 September - First day back for Years 9, 11 and 13, therefore all students in school

This is a cumulative build of students; all students will attend every day after their first day in school.

As a final resource, you may find it useful to read the government's guidance written specifically for parents to help prepare for the return to school, which can be accessed via this link [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back, including our new Year 7s who we are yet to meet in person and a fantastic group of Year 12 returning to us, alongside some students joining our Sixth Form from other schools.

Yours sincerely



Jo Meloni
Headteacher



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