

Tuesday 29th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: AAT face mask/covering policy UPDATE

I am writing to bring to your attention changes we are making to the wearing of face masks at Oak Academy and our reasons for doing so.

Firstly, I would like to reassure you that we have not had any confirmed cases of Covid-19 among students or staff and we are working hard with families where students are absent to ensure reasons are understood. Thank you so much for your ongoing support with this in using our dedicated absence line (01202 242300) and sharing why your child is unable to attend.

Also, as per our policy, there are currently no schools within the Trust located in a 'local lockdown', and therefore there is **no mandatory requirement** to wear a face mask/covering in communal areas or classrooms. **However, should a child or member of a staff wish to wear a face mask/covering within any area of the school (communal area or classroom), they will be permitted to do so.**

This expectation remains unchanged and there is therefore no requirement for students to wear a face mask, unless they personally wish to do so.

Now that we are several weeks into the term and having reviewed the operational plan and risk assessment, we are making a change in the **requirement of staff** wearing face masks as follows:

From Wednesday 30th September we are asking all staff to wear a face mask when they are moving between lessons, when they are in communal areas such as corridors and the canteen and also when they are on duty during break and lunch around the academy site.

The reason for this is simple. Students are protected by working in bubbles and staff contribute to this by maintaining social distance from the students when they are teaching in the classroom. From experience, it is harder to maintain social distancing when staff are moving around the site, and as they are working across the bubbles, the wearing of a face mask helps further reduce the risk of infection transmission.

I hope you share my view that this change in our practice will help keep the risk of infection as low as we possibly can. Assemblies next week will reinforce this change, along with our ongoing key operational expectations.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas
Principal

Oak Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT
Paul Holman, BSc (Hons), Director of Outcomes
Richard Burgas, BA(Hons), Principal

www.oak-academy.co.uk

E office@oak-academy.co.uk T 01202 774600
Duck Lane, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 9JJ