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Principal: Mrs Anne Davis

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Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday we received updated Government Guidance for schools under the new Lockdown that started today and lasts until 2nd December 2020. I am writing to you to confirm how this affects your child.

The first thing to note is that the tiered responses that I wrote to you about before the break are suspended during this lockdown. This means we are not expected to have classes on rotation at the moment. All students are expected to attend school as normal during the lockdown.

The main difference now is that all adults and students (from Year 7 to Year 13) **are expected to wear masks in communal areas of the school**, unless there is a medical reason why they should not. If your daughter claims **free school meals** and does not have a mask, then please contact the pastoral team as we may be able to support you with this.

Government guidance states the following:

Face coverings

In primary schools and education settings teaching year 6 and below, there is no change to the existing position. It is not mandatory for staff and visitors to wear face coverings. In situations where social distancing between adults in settings is not possible (for example when moving around in corridors and communal areas), settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site, for both staff and visitors.

In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This was already the case for pupils in year 7 and above, and staff and visitors for those schools that were in areas where local alert level 'high' and 'very high'.



Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.

Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college.

Please ensure your daughter/son has a mask with them each day and has a small plastic bag to put it in when not in use.

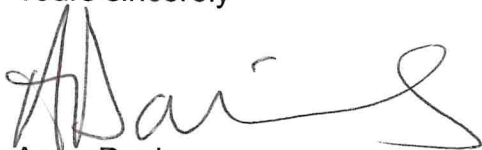
If you believe your child to be exempt from wearing a face covering - please contact the relevant Pastoral Lead to explain so this can be sensitively handled around school and a Health Care Plan put in place. Students with a medical reason for not wearing a mask will be issued with a card to show staff if challenged, to prevent any future issues.

- Years 7 and 8 - Mrs Harrison yvonne.harrison@dstc.kent.sch.uk
- Years 9 and 10 - Mrs Sutton lorna.sutton@dstc.kent.sch.uk
- Years 11 and Post 16 - Mrs Harvey esther.harvey@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Students will still be outside at breaks and lunch wherever possible and therefore need a warm coat, preferably with a hood, for inclement weather. We will keep them inside in extremis but we are currently unable to supervise all students inside all day every day.

During these times we are constantly reacting to guidance and direction from DFE and Government which is often last minute. I would like to thank you all for your patience, support and fortitude in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely



Anne Davis

Principal