



29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

**Re: Face Masks**

I am sure you are keeping up to date with all the news regarding COVID-19 and will be aware of the government's announcements surrounding the use of face masks in schools and colleges.

I am sure you will appreciate that we are educationalists and not COVID-19 experts. Our job is to secure the safety of our community as much as we possibly can and, to that end, although the guidance is can sometimes appear ambiguous, we believe in the circumstances it would be sensible to review our approach.

Previous communications have stated that your child may wear a face mask if they wish and must wear it on public transport. In light of the latest guidelines, we will be proceeding with the following approach, informed by the Government guidance and the World Health Organisation (WHO) advice, which the Government has deferred to:

Students are advised to wear a face mask:

- if they are walking in close proximity to friends
- as they arrive into college
- as they walk from one area of the college to another
- if walking around a classroom
- as they wait in a queue, for example lunch, a class etc.
- as they use the toilet facilities
- Some students and staff will not be wearing face masks due to personal medical reasons and we will all be sensitive and respectful in these situations.
- Some students and staff will be wearing face masks in classroom settings as well as corridors, etc. due to personal medical reasons – again, we will be sensitive and respectful in these circumstances.
- If a student wishes to wear a face mask during a lesson because it makes them feel safer, more comfortable, etc. then we will, of course, be respectful of this.
- We are mindful that we are part of a Trust with younger children on campus, and therefore face masks must be appropriate for a college setting, with no inappropriate slogans etc.
- It is the responsibility of parents, guardians and carers to provide students with a face covering
- Members of the community who visit the College MUST wear a face covering in the communal areas and for the duration of the visit if appropriate.

Maintaining a distance and following government guidelines remains absolutely crucial in order to reduce any risks. The full document from the government can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

In addition, I want to reiterate the importance of all members of the College community to complete a lateral flow test at least twice a week; every Sunday and Wednesday.

Please email the college at [parksidestudiocollege@trhat.org](mailto:parksidestudiocollege@trhat.org) if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support and, should there be any further changes we will of course let you know as soon as possible.

Kind regards

**K.Porter  
Principal**