



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well, and that the start of the new lockdown has not been too challenging for you and your families. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you with a few quick updates, and to also thank you for all your support since September. Whilst having the school fully open has not been without its challenges, it has been fantastic to have all our wonderful students back in school, interacting with their friends and their teachers.

This week, the Department for Education strengthened its guidance relating to face masks in schools. The full, updated guidance regarding schools can be found below:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020?utm_source=9c581bba-c231-4a61-9ca0-abbd0b5da7a2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

What this means is that, from Monday 9th November, all students must wear a face mask whilst moving around the school site. If your son/daughter does have a medical exemption for wearing a face mask, please contact their Head of Year to discuss this issue and how we can support your child. This includes in all communal areas, such as corridors, toilets and the canteen. This also includes outside spaces. Students may remove masks when they are eating/drinking. Once students arrive at a lesson, and they are instructed by their teacher, they may take their face masks off. It is very important that all students follow this rule, as it is in place to protect the health and safety of every member of our school community. Face masks should be plain blue for students in Years 7–11, and black for students in the Sixth Form. There are face masks available to buy on our website, under the 'Shop' tab, if your son/daughter would like a school branded one.

Another important issue I wanted to bring to your attention is regarding your son/daughter eating food on the school site. Due to the hygiene implications of large numbers of students consuming food at break and lunchtime, we have created 'zones' for each year group where food and drink can be consumed. This is so we can minimise the risk of cross-contamination within the school and put in place effective cleaning schedules. As such could I ask you to reiterate the following points to your son/daughter:

- Your son/daughter should only be eating in allocated break/lunchtime areas - almost all of these areas are outside, with the exception of the main Canteen and Sixth Form Canteen.
- Your son/daughter must not consume food in any classroom - this is particularly relevant to Sixth Form students and includes rooms R16-R17. At lunchtime, all 6th Form students have a dedicated canteen in the Common Room in which to eat. At break time, Year 13 students have access to this Common Room, or a recreational area by the school pond. Year 12 also have a dedicated outdoor space (outside the Sixth Form Centre) in which to eat.
- All students should sanitise their hands before and after eating.
- All rubbish must be placed in the bins provided.

Staff will be reinforcing both these important messages to students next week. I understand that there are many rules and regulations in school at the moment, and that this can be quite frustrating at times, but I am sure you all agree that we must do everything we can to provide a safe educational environment for all our students and staff.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time. I wish you all a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Ms Sue Hay
Headteacher