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Dear Parent/Carer

As I am sure you will have seen there have been many changes in relation to government policy over recent weeks, in particular around the issue of face coverings. Current government advice is that students should wear face coverings in communal areas around the academy. Full details can be found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

We are therefore writing to inform you that all students are now required to have a face covering on their persons when they attend the academy. We are advising that students have at least 2 face coverings so they can wash and clean one whilst using the other.

I have stated many times the wellbeing and care of the students and staff at the academy will always be our first priority. The use of face coverings is seen as a way of further reducing the risk of transmission of Covid 19 to everyone. On that basis will be insisting that everyone complies with this guidance in line with government direction. The wearing of face coverings will only be necessary in specified areas and at certain times of the day where students will be mixing their 'year group bubbles' such as at the start and end of the day, whilst queuing for food at lunchtime in the designated food serving areas and the very limited corridor use your child will have on the rare occasion they need to move classroom. Currently students will not be asked to wear face coverings in lessons.

I appreciate that this may raise concerns and anxiety amongst our students and I would ask that you speak with them to reassure them that these measure have been put in place to help to reduce the risk of transmission to them and to keep them safe:

The [Chief Medical Officers from all four nations in the United Kingdom](#) have made it clear that the overall risks to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) in relation to education settings is low and that the risks associated with not being in school certainly outweigh those of being in school.

We have worked incredibly hard over the summer to ensure the academy is as safe as it can be for a full return in September (a copy of our risk assessment is available on the academy website). We have also sent out a number of communications with regards to our plans and measures, again all copies are on our website. I would urge you to check you have all the information you need to work with us in ensuring that all students can get back to their full time education and make the progress they deserve within a safe environment.

These are different times that we are working in and it looks as it may be sometime before we revert back to whatever 'normal' might be. I am convinced that by us working in partnership as we have for many years, we can have a successful and fulfilling return to school. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the academy.

I look forward to welcoming your children back into the Academy for the start of the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Gelder
Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust

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