



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear parents/carers,

As a school we are aiming to keep communicating to you as and when we need to. This will sometimes mean that there are frequent letters home. I know that some of them are repetitive and some contain only minor changes. However, please make sure you take time to read the information, all of which will also be on the school website.

My communication to you at the start of this week is about 3 areas, some of which were highlighted in the newsletter last week.

1. The risk assessment and risk assessment action plans have been reviewed and amendments have been approved by the governing body. Both documents can be found on the school website.
2. The behaviour policy addendum was also reviewed and approved by the governing body. This can also be found on the school website.
3. Face coverings. Firstly, I would like to re-emphasise the legal requirement for all passengers on public transport to wear a face covering. I have spoken to students at the bus stop and several I have spoken to do not have coverings. Secondly, there has been a change in the school policy and this will be effective from Wednesday 30 September. From this date it is strongly recommended that all staff and students wear a face covering in enclosed spaces. This means wearing a face covering in the corridors as students travel to and from lessons and to and from break times. They are not required to wear them outside or in dining areas including in the sports hall and canteen.

We would also like to make it clear that wearing a face covering in class will remain an individual's choice.

We understand that for some members of the school community, it is not possible to wear face coverings. We would like to reassure those community members that we are sympathetic to their individual needs.

We expect the vast majority of students already have access to face coverings, but if there are any families who, due to financial pressure, are unable to provide these, please contact your daughter or son's student support officer, and provisions will be made for them.



In relation to the safe use of face coverings, please see the guidance below:

How to wear a face covering-:

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged.

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession.

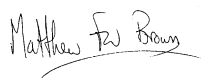
When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- Place in a plastic bag in your bag
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed.

What this means is that it is vitally important that all students carry a face covering with them at all times.

I would like to thank you for your understanding and for your support at what continues to be a challenging time for us all.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher

