

Parentmail Update: 10.12.21

Dear Parent/Carer

Face coverings

We have informed you previously of changes to the Welsh Government guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings in schools.

The updated information states that **"All staff and learners in our secondary schools and colleges should now wear face coverings while indoors including in classrooms where physical distancing cannot be maintained"**.

Therefore, from Monday 6 December all pupils have been required to wear a face covering when inside school buildings, including in classrooms during lessons.

However, most pupils had already started to wear face coverings in school before this date.

To date, we have distributed in excess of 1000 disposable and reusable face coverings to pupils. This means that our stock of face coverings is rapidly dwindling. We would be grateful if all pupils would now ensure that they bring in a face covering from home. The remaining stock in school will be used to assist pupils who are in genuine need.

We would encourage face coverings to be washable and reusable rather than disposable in nature. This will help to address environmental sustainability and reduce potential littering problems.

Face coverings are still required for pupils if they are travelling on school transport to and from school.

Should there be a specific medical reason as to why your child cannot wear a face covering, we would be grateful if you could contact the School to enable us to discuss the situation.

Although we have changed our procedures as a result of Welsh Government decisions, we have also been emphasising to pupils that the wearing of face coverings should be viewed as an act of courtesy which can protect their own health and that of other people.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Ventilation and colder weather

As part of the School's approach to reducing the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission, we have ensured that classrooms are as well ventilated as possible. This means that windows are open, fully or partially, to obtain the levels of fresh air required. As the colder weather is now with us, we have to be mindful of pupils' thermal comfort if windows are open. Therefore, pupils are allowed to wear additional layers if conditions require it. However, it is important to note that the school jumper is the main compulsory item of clothing if pupils are cold. Only if the jumper is insufficient should pupils wear additional layers.

INSET day

Friday 17 December 2021 is a designated INSET day. Therefore, the School will be closed to all pupils on that day.

Staffing at school - Impact of Covid-19

As you will know we have faced unprecedented pressure on staffing levels in school throughout the term as a result of Covid-19 and associated self isolation requirements. Thankfully, we have been able to maintain face to face teaching for all year groups. However, as previously advised, next week starting on Monday 13 December, Years 12 and 13 will be working at home during their reading, research and revision week.

We wish all families an enjoyable weekend.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School Senior Leadership Team.