

17 September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### Face coverings in school

As you are no doubt aware, this afternoon the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that the seven north east local authorities, including Northumberland, would be enabled to implement tighter restrictions to limit local rates of transmission of the coronavirus. Following this announcement, the seven authority chief executives, under guidance from their directors of public health, issued [responses](#) to questions about the new arrangements. Within these responses, they specified that, for year 7 students upwards, face coverings should now be worn when moving around in corridors and communal areas. As a result, with effect from tomorrow, we will be implementing this requirement.

I appreciate that this is short notice. However, I know that the majority of our students will already possess a face covering and therefore ask that this is brought into school tomorrow along with a small resealable bag to keep it in when not in use. If your child doesn't have a covering or forgets to bring it, we will provide him or her with a disposable mask via their form tutor or the pastoral office for students in years 12 and 13. Tutors will talk through the expectations around when and where coverings should be worn and will give guidance on the importance of cleaning hands before application and after removal. To support this, it would be helpful if your son or daughter could bring hand sanitiser with them, although this will still be readily available in classrooms and around school. Year 12 and 13 students will be sent this guidance by email in the morning.

I am aware that some children are not able to wear a covering for health reasons and will therefore be exempt from this requirement. If this applies to your son or daughter, please contact [pastoral@qehs.net](mailto:pastoral@qehs.net).

Thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Atkins

Executive Headteacher