

Dear Parent/Carer

### September 2020 - Face coverings in Garforth Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to the Academy for the new academic year. You have already received specific information with regards to the plans we have made for September and the start dates for each year group and this information is also on our website at <https://www.garforthacademy.org.uk/news/start-of-term-arrangements>

We are excited to be moving back to seeing our students in person and have worked extremely hard to put measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. Our aim is to do everything we can so we can continue to provide in-person education throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

You have already seen the information we have provided about the changes we have made. These include:

- Zoned areas for year group bubbles
- Reorganisation of classrooms
- Limited movement of students, with the majority of lessons being taught in the same learning zone and staff moving to students
- Staggered start / finish times
- Staggered lunch and breaks
- Additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- Additional handwashing/ hand sanitiser stations

We have continued to review the government guidance over the summer, including the most recent information on face coverings in schools.

As part of our plans to keep students and staff as safe as possible, we will **require** the use of face coverings in corridors and communal areas by staff, students and visitors at the Academy.

This includes:

- Entering the Academy and until students are seated in their classroom
- When moving around the corridors/to the toilets at any time between lessons and at break times\*
- Whilst queuing for food at break/lunch times\*
- Leaving the Academy and until they have exited the Academy buildings

\*Once students are seated in their lunch/break area or classroom, they can remove their face mask.

Staff will also wear face coverings (visor or face mask) whilst moving on the corridors and on duty in communal areas. Students and staff will also maintain a social distance of 2m.

To support you, the Academy will provide students in Years 7 – 11 with three reusable face coverings, which should be washed daily. These will be provided to students as soon as possible and subject to availability, we

will provide different colours to different year groups, in order to support our zoned bubble approach and the organisation of break and lunchtimes. Until your son/daughter receives these face coverings from us, please ensure they come to the Academy with a face covering. This needs to cover the nose and mouth and will need to be plain and appropriate for school.

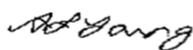
The government has provided details of exemptions to the requirement to wear face coverings. More information can be found at [face-coverings-in-education](#). Please contact your son/daughter's Learning Manager if they will not be able to wear a face covering for one of the reasons stated in the guidance.

We will keep this policy under review as the autumn term progresses.

Our aim, as always, is provide an outstanding education for your son/daughter. We understand the anxieties of students who have not been able to attend school for several months and those of their parents. Staff have been working hard to develop a wide range of activities, including additional tuition, to support your son/daughter in making up this lost time in school. We recognise that, like us, you will be eager to see your child benefit from these plans and would like to thank you again for your continued support.

Finally, please find below additional Government guidance for parents/carers which you may find useful.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Young

Principal

#### **Additional Information:**

Government information for parents and carers is provided at [Parent carer guidance](#) .

Please continue to follow this advice if your child or a member of your household are showing Covid 19 symptoms.

In particular:

- Do not send your child to school if:
  - they are showing [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
  - someone in their household is showing symptoms
- [Arrange a test](#) if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform us of the results.
- If the test is positive, follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

This will help us to minimise any interruption to teaching and learning in the Academy and help us to provide appropriate remote support for any children with symptoms.