



THE HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

9th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, cases of Covid-19 are increasing nationally. In addition, and as reported in the local press, cases in Uttlesford are also rising and residents have been urged to wear face masks in enclosed public spaces.

Our ambition is to provide our students with a high-quality education in order to support them to make the best possible progress. To do this we need to keep as many students as possible in school at all times.

Our current position is that we 'strongly recommend' that members of our school community wear face masks in those areas inside the school building where social distancing is difficult (e.g. corridors at lesson changeover times).

In the light of the increased cases locally, we are strengthening this position from Monday 12th October.

From Monday 12th October we will **expect** students to follow our recommendation and to wear face masks:

- for the duration of their journey to and from school if they catch a bus
- as they enter the school building at the beginning of the day
- whenever they are moving around inside the school building and in shared spaces (e.g. in corridors at lesson changeover)

As stated previously, face masks must be purpose made (not face coverings, such as scarves) and they must be plain in colour. Any student who wears an inappropriate face mask will be asked to remove it (an alternative plain mask will be issued for the remainder of the day).

Students can remove face masks whilst eating and drinking in their designated dining areas, during lessons, when outside during break times and once they have left the school building at the end of the day.

If you believe there is a medical, or any other significant reason, why your child should not wear a face mask then please provide them with a note explaining their particular circumstances. Your child will then be issued with an exemption card. A member of staff may contact you to clarify the contents of the note prior to issuing an exemption card.

Following our return from the half term break (Monday 2nd November) failure to wear a face mask, unless permitted by an exemption card, will be treated in the same way as other uniform infringements.

We are grateful for your continued support as we endeavour to minimise risk to our students and staff.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Gee
Headteacher

Parsonage Downs, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 2AU

T 01371 872560 F 01371 874632 E enquiries@hrs.education www.helena-roman.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Daniel Gee BA(Hons), MA, NPGH