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**THE BULWELL  
ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

28 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that the Department for Education has now advised that secondary school children should wear face coverings in areas of local lockdown where infection rates are high, or where the Principal/Headteacher decides that this is the safest method of operating. This guidance is based on the following scientific evidence as offered by the Department for Education:

*Coronavirus (COVID-19) usually spreads by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces, if you touch a surface and then your face without washing your hands first. This is why social distancing, regular hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes is so important in controlling the spread of the virus.*

*The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.*

This guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education>) is specific to communal areas in schools such as corridors and spaces where it is difficult to maintain social distancing. Classrooms have been configured to allow additional measures to be in place, so face coverings will not be required during lesson time.

On the basis of this guidance, we have made the decision *to require* the use of face coverings for all staff and students when moving around, such as in corridors and in communal areas, and request that you ensure your child/children have **suitable face coverings** to bring to school, as well as a **plastic, sealable bag** to keep them in when not in use. Masks should not have any offensive pictures or words on them.

We will make sure that all children know how to apply and remove their face coverings safely, and ask that you reinforce these messages at home using the government guidance found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

If you believe that your child/children should be exempt from wearing a face covering due to a disability or other concern, please inform their year manager as soon as possible.



If you will have difficulty providing a face covering for your child/children, please inform Mr Derry on 0115 964 7640 or via email [Robert.Derry@bulwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:Robert.Derry@bulwellacademy.org.uk) as soon as possible.

To maintain the high behavioural standards around the academy, we will expect the following in regard to face coverings:

- Face coverings need to be suitable for school and not display any offensive words or graphics
- Students are expected to observe the safe and appropriate application and removal of face coverings once this has been explained to them
- If students are using their face coverings in a disruptive manner, this will be deemed disruptive behaviour, and dealt with in accordance with our behaviour protocols
- Students must never share face coverings
- Tampering with another student's face covering would be classed as a significant health and safety breach and will be dealt with accordingly

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information above, please contact me via my PA, Tracey Sadler on 0115 964 7640 or via email [Tracey.Sadler@bulwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:Tracey.Sadler@bulwellacademy.org.uk)

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back next week and hope they are looking forward to returning.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Strong  
**Principal**