

Lincoln Castle Academy



27th August 2020

Face masks/ coverings

Dear Parents & Carers,

I write to provide clarity regarding the use of masks/ face coverings at Lincoln Castle Academy from the start of term. Government guidance released this week requires masks to be worn in school corridors in areas of local lockdown but also gives Headteachers the flexibility to introduce masks in all schools should they wish to do so.

Although we do not have high rates of Covid-19 in our area, I believe it is sensible for all of us to carry a mask when going about our daily business. Whilst it is unlikely to be necessary to use masks in school owing to our control measures, I believe it is important that students and staff have this option. Students travelling to school on a bus will be required to wear a mask and students wishing to call at the local shop on their way to or from school will need to do the same.

Carrying a mask ensures students are prepared should the need arise.

From the first day of term in September, please note the following requirements:

- ALL students will be required to carry a mask/ face covering in their blazer pocket. This will mean students are prepared should they be unable to maintain distance at any time (unlikely given our protocols but a useful additional precaution). Masks of any colour/ design are permitted (providing they are non-offensive). Plastic face shields are also permitted.
- ALL masks must be carried inside a small clear plastic bag. We will be showing students how to remove masks safely in order to minimise the risk of transmission. We will also be stressing the importance of good hand hygiene during this process.
- Students will be permitted to wear their mask throughout the school day. This is a personal choice and is not currently mandatory.
- Masks must be washed or disposed of after use. Material reusable masks should be washed after use, disposable masks should only be worn once.

There will be no penalties for students who fail to bring a mask to school and we will, where possible, provide a disposable mask for the day. However, we cannot afford to provide masks for all students; this would cost over £400 per day! We therefore request your support in ensuring your child has a clean mask on a daily basis.

I appreciate this is another item to add to the list of requirements for the school day but feel this is a sensible precaution in the current climate. Furthermore, should the Government strengthen the rules around masks in secondary schools, we will be prepared!

Many thanks in anticipation of your support,
Mrs Laming