



26 January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Headteacher Update January 2022

Following on from my email last week regarding face coverings, I have spent a lot of this week reviewing the guidance, our case numbers and speaking with both my senior team and headteachers from across the Local Authority. In addition, we have received no legal guidance against following the Government's advice in the recent announcement.

As a result of the above, I have made the decision to move from face coverings being mandatory to recommending them in communal areas. The decision to wear face coverings will become a personal choice and we will be communicating this to students tomorrow.

I understand fully that the issue of face coverings is a controversial one and this decision will please some parents and upset others, but it has been made with the information and guidance I have available. It is not a decision where we have simply followed the guidance, it has been discussed at length and I hope that you will support this.

I want to reassure you that I will continue to monitor the data we have, and should I have concerns that cases are rising, I will revisit this decision. In addition, we report our cases daily to the Local Authority who are working with Public Health Wokingham and monitor this information, providing guidance for intervention where they deem it necessary.

### Uniform and expectations from Monday 31 January

In addition to the above changes, we will be reinstating our expectations that students should come to school in full school uniform, not PE kit, from Monday 31 January. On days where students have PE they will be expected to change in school as they used to do.

[https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/\\_site/data/files/users/4D2B7303CECFDFC320AEA8F5449CFEEC.pdf](https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/4D2B7303CECFDFC320AEA8F5449CFEEC.pdf)

Students who do not comply with uniform expectations will be expected to change into spare uniform that we have on school site.

We will endeavour to work with you on any issues, however, persistent issues will be sanctioned.

### Personal Appearance

In addition to their uniform, we will continue to uphold the high standards we expect in terms of person appearance, including:

- Well-groomed hair (no extreme styles).
- One small silver/gold stud or ring in each ear only.
- No other jewellery should be worn to school, including rings.
- Natural coloured hair.
- No make-up or nail varnish except light foundation.
- We recommend that all students wear a wristwatch for school.

- Head scarves may be worn for religious reasons by agreement and should be plain black or navy.
- Face covering (with no inappropriate images on).

### **Equipment for Learning – Years 7-11**

All students in Years 7-11 are expected to enter a classroom ready to learn, and this includes them having the correct equipment to do this. The equipment listed below should be contained within a transparent pencil case. This pencil case allows tutors to check the equipment of students quickly and easily. We appreciate that students may not be able to fit a scientific calculator and maths set in their transparent pencil cases and so we are happy for these to be carried separately in their school bags.

#### **Equipment:**

- Pens – black/blue, green and red
- Writing pencils
- Coloured pencils
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Glue stick
- 30cm ruler
- Maths set (containing protractor, compass, set square)
- Scientific calculator – we recommend a Casio calculator - FX-83GTX or FX-85GTX, however most scientific calculators are fine.
- At least 2 highlighters
- Transparent pencil case

This equipment is compulsory, and we will be asking our pastoral team to check that students still have this equipment in Years 7-11. Please can you support this by checking your child's pencil case and refill any equipment that may have been mislaid or used up.

### **Finally...**

I want to thank you all for the support over the past few months when, at times, it has been incredibly difficult to keep the school open. We are by no means out of the pandemic, but I truly believe that as a school community we have grown closer together over the past two years. The students have been working hard and we are now thinking about how we can make improvements to the school, and I will be in touch with you before February half term about some of the plans we are working on.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson  
Headteacher