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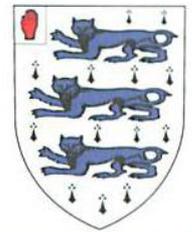
THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

ADAMS COLLEGE SIXTH FORM CENTRE
ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: Gavin Sterry BSc (Hons) MA



Dear Parent/Carer

Change in guidance regarding the wearing of face masks in school

Government guidance published on the 26th August states: "Nationwide, the Government is not recommending face coverings as necessary in education settings, generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures."

The school has been given discretion over use in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed.

Having observed the students around the site, along with an increase in the community of people "showing symptoms" and the national increase in the 'R' value (Rate of Infection), we have identified that a change in our protocol is now appropriate.

As of Monday 21st September, students will be required to wear face coverings as follows:

- At all times when **on school or public transport** to and from school
- **On entry to the school building** at the start of the day and when returning from break and lunch times
- When **moving around the building** in corridors between lessons
- When **moving to and from the lunch hall**
- When **moving through the school to external doors** at the end of the day.

Students should remove and put away face coverings at the classroom door and then sanitise their hands. At the end of the lesson, students should sanitise their hands and **then** replace their face covering.

Please ensure that your child is equipped with a face covering to use from **Monday 21st September**. Where a student does not have a face covering, one will be provided for them and parents/carers will then be contacted to discuss the provision of a face covering for their child.

We are aware that some students have underlying conditions which mean that they are exempt from wearing a face covering. Please contact Miss Brisbourne on brisbourne@thomasadams.net to provide medical evidence if you wish your child to have an exemption card which they can quickly show staff as needed.

Face Covering in Classrooms

Guidance says: "On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of



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controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided.”

Families who would like to discuss their child using a face covering in classrooms should email Miss Brisbane at rbrisbourne@thomasadams.net

In Addition

Some students who work closely on a one to one basis with adults, in the classroom or Learning Support hub, may wish to wear face coverings.

Sixth Form Students

While on the Sixth Form campus, Sixth Form students will follow the same routines as other year groups.

I would take this opportunity to ask for your support in ensuring your Sixth Form son/daughter respects the 'rule of 6' when going off site into Wem. They must remain in groups of less than six people or risk being challenged or fined if reported.

Visitors to Reception

All visitors to Reception at the lower school site or Sixth Form campus must wear a face covering. Entry to school is restricted. All visitors must have an appointment and only enter the school reception at the allocated time.

If you wish to read the full government guidance on the use of face coverings in education, please follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Once again, may I thank you for your continued trust and support.

Yours faithfully



Mark Cooper
Headteacher