



28 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on further important guidance on your son's safe return to school.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Further to our Information to Parents Leaflet, the Department of Education has issued additional guidance regarding face coverings. The Education Restart – Update to Guidance on Face Coverings in Schools document is attached.

Therefore, during the College day, students should now:

- wear a face covering in corridors and other communal areas of the College (including Sixth Form Centre, the College Chapel and the canteen), unless they are exempt from wearing face coverings for medical reasons.
- Face coverings can be either a mask or a clear, Perspex visor (whichever is the most comfortable).

Our guidance already states that students may be required to wear a face covering (unless they are medically exempt) in particular classes either to help protect vulnerable students and staff or to facilitate teaching in specific areas such as computer suites.

Students should bring a plain face covering to school and wear as directed.

If a pupil is unable to wear a face covering, due to medical reasons, please contact his Head of Year to inform him/her of this. This information will be noted and they will be issued with a card which they can show to staff if asked. If we do not have details of the medical condition on our records, Matron will contact you so that records can be updated accordingly.

We have been asked by Translink to remind all our parents and students of the regulations regarding face coverings on Public Transport. The attached documents from Translink outline some Frequently Asked Questions.

Attached is a document that clarifies what will happen if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the College. By complying with the protocols put in place in school and following the guidance from Government and the Public Health Agency outside of school, we will be helping to reduce the risk of infection. ***The flow charts included in the document provide a step by step guide to the action that you should take if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or they are contacted by the Contacting Tracing Service.***

Following advice from DENI, we also urge everyone to download the STOP COVID NI app. The Contact Tracing Service is responsible for contacting individuals who may have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive. The following link takes you to a short video presentation that explains what close contact means and how the system works.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/testing-and-tracing-covid-19/contact-tracing>

The College will co-operate with and act on advice given by the Contact Tracing Service (PHA), including, if required, the dissemination of any information. Please note that the College will not disclose the identity of an individual who is suspected of having or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

**Mr P McBride**  
**Principal**