



28 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Updated information for return to school September 2020 including wearing of face coverings**

We have implemented a number of changes to welcome the students back to school safely and are looking forward to the start of term. During this week there has been some further developments in regard to the wearing of face coverings in schools. We have looked at the World Health Organisation (WHO) and updated government guidance as well as taken advice from our local health protection team in regards to the wearing of face coverings in school.

The current advice is that face coverings (on top of the large number of protective measures that we are already putting in place to reopen the school – see list below) are not necessary unless local lockdown measures are implemented due to the school being in an area of high transmission of the virus. When local measures are implemented, it is mandatory that face coverings are worn in communal areas outside of the classroom including corridors where social distancing is difficult or they may have transient contact with students outside of their bubble. Currently, the school is not in an area of high transmission of the virus and therefore in line with guidance there is no need to wear face masks in school. Nonetheless, we recognise that some students may find the wearing of masks in communal areas and corridors around school helps reduce their anxiety about the return to school and we are happy to allow them to do so if they wish. If your child wishes to use a mask we would urge you to instruct them on correct use and safe storage of the mask during the day and the video at this [link](#) that we will be showing to all students upon their return to school might be helpful.

If worn, face coverings should be:

- plain in appearance, no logos or motifs
- stored in a plastic bag (which can be closed) in a child's pocket or school bag
- washed/replaced regularly (it is recommended that this is daily, in hot soapy water)
- used appropriately

**Please remember: students will be required to wear face coverings in shops and when using public transport.**

The government published updated guidance on the 27th August 2020 with regards to face coverings including how to wear one, this can be found via the following link: <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>

Our practices and decision regarding the wearing of face masks/coverings is in line with other local schools and will be kept under review, especially in light of any updated local or national guidance from government and/or changes to transmission in the local area.

Headteacher: Mr P Foster BA (Hons) MA NPQH  
Address: Tithepit Shaw Lane, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9YB  
Telephone: 01883 624067 Email: [info@warlinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:info@warlinghamschool.co.uk)  
Website: [www.warlinghamschool.co.uk](http://www.warlinghamschool.co.uk)

Tandridge Learning Trust

A School within the Tandridge Learning Trust

## **Brief summary of other measures in place for the safe return to school for staff and students.**

So far we have followed the National and local guidance to ensure:

- The school building is zoned up into Year group bubbles.
- Each Year group has a separate entrance and exit at a separate start / finish time to any other year group.
- Each Year group has a separate entrance / exit point to their bubble learning zone.
- Each Year group has a different morning break and lunchtime space with a staggered time slot.
- Each Year group has a different toilet.
- Each Year group has separate water points.
- All classrooms have forward facing desks.
- All classrooms have wall mounted hand sanitisers and flip-top bins (to support catch it, bin it, kill it hygiene measures).
- Each classroom has disinfectant spray and blue tissue (to clean where you've been).
- All internal doors will be wedged open to ensure less need to touch doors and handles.
- A deep clean of the school has been carried out on a rota basis.
- An enhanced daily cleaning regime has started.

### **Uniform**

As I communicated in my letter on 25<sup>th</sup> August we are aware that some families may have experienced difficulties in purchasing some aspects of school uniform. If that is the case, please contact the school via your child's Tutor or Head of House to inform us. Please also ensure that you provide your child with a with a signed note or letter that they can hand in to their tutor when they come to school.

### **Pre-loved uniform**

Our pre-loved uniform has proved very popular and we have a large selection available for purchase via student services. Please call or email [studentservices@warlinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:studentservices@warlinghamschool.co.uk) and we can arrange for you to come into School by appointment.

Arrangements for PE, including kit and changing arrangements will be communicated next week by Mr Ward.

**REMINDER** – Please could I remind parents to go to the school website reopening page and order their child's lunch for the first week of school if not bringing a packed lunch. The order form will close on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Local bus transportation**

Please see in the appendix below information from our local bus provider about bus services upon our return to school.

Should you have any concerns about your child returning to school or have any relevant information to share with the school, in support of your child's return to school, please contact your child's Head of House or Tutor in the first instance.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely



## **APPENDIX**

### **Information regarding local bus transportation**

#### **Overall Government Message**

Please avoid using public transport during school travel periods if at all possible, if an alternative way to travel is available. However, it is recognised that a significant number of students will need to use bus services.

#### **Provision of extra capacity**

The County Council has worked with bus operators to identify those journeys at school times where capacity may be an issue, depending on the number of passengers including students that actually need to travel on those journeys. Funding is being provided for a number of identified services, so that operators are able to run a second bus at the same time as the normal one, morning and afternoon. In these cases, the second bus will be restricted to school and college students and social distancing need not apply on that vehicle, as advised in government guidance to transport companies on bus journeys not open to the general public.

It is strongly recommended that face coverings are worn on any bus or coach, but on services open to the general public, it is mandatory for those aged 11 years or over, unless in one of the exempted categories.

Determining in advance how well-patronised a bus journey will be at start of term, is not an exact science. In recent weeks, patronage has been much lower than normal. Should any bus service be identified as over-subscribed once the term starts, the council and the bus operators will use best endeavours to provide extra capacity for students as swiftly as possible.

However, school and college students may of course travel on buses that are open to the general public, but subject to a reduced number of passengers for social distancing, as determined by the operator and the type of bus used.

#### **Local Bus Services primarily for schools or colleges**

Some schools or colleges are served by local bus services that are specifically designed for the travel needs of students. These are additional to the main bus network and run on school/college days only, typically with one journey in the morning and one in the afternoon.

In order to provide the ability to maximise available capacity, these services will be restricted to students from 1 September and will no longer be available to the general public. As that will be the case, the government guidance does not insist on social distancing. Before Covid 19, these services were only used by a very occasional member of the public on an irregular basis, so this will result in little difference.

#### **Timetable Changes**

It is strongly advised that a check is made with the relevant bus operator, before students travel for the autumn term. Some bus services may have adjusted timings which are different to those in use before schools closed for Covid 19. The operator's website or social media should give details of current timetables and may also give details of fare payment options and season tickets available for purchase and the measures they are taking to keep their customers as safe as possible.

The Public Transport pages on the Surrey County Council website [www.surreycc.gov.uk/buses](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/buses) is being updated over the weekend of 29/31 August to include the latest timetables advised by the bus companies. It will also show

which bus services operate to schools, the bus operators' details and will show those local bus services being restricted to students only. Details for a number of services have been confirmed only at short notice before start of term, therefore it is important to check with the operator if in doubt.