



Dear Parents/Carers,

As stated in our previous communication, the Education Minister made an announcement on 26/8/2020 relating to the wearing of face coverings in schools. As a direct consequence of this announcement, the Local Authority has written to all schools and strongly recommended that face coverings are to be worn in communal areas.

In line with this advice, we would strongly recommend that your child wears a face covering in school when moving around communal areas of the building. This includes corridors, lifts, stairwells and toilets. Face coverings can be removed when seated in the classroom, participating in lessons, when eating/drinking and when outside of the school building.

We fully understand and recognise that for some pupils and members of staff it is not recommended or possible to wear face coverings due to medical exemptions. We ask of our pupils that they respect the right of all members of the school community to feel safe and included and to show this by not commenting or asking questions on the wearing or non-wearing of masks in others.

We have written to all pupils of Years 8 - 11 to explain the above information and included a Do and Don't list to encourage best practice in hygienic mask wearing. The email to pupils is included in bold at the end of this message for you to read. It would be appreciated if you could spend some time going over this with your child/children before school resumes in order for them to be as prepared as possible for their first day back.

Thank you again for your ongoing support as we get ready to welcome the pupils back to Stanwell.

Email sent to Year 8 - 13 pupils on Stanwell webmail accounts:

Dear all,

The Welsh Government has updated guidance on the use of face coverings (masks) in communal areas of schools. Communal areas are places to which all members of the school will go, such as corridors, stairs, toilets and the dining hall areas. The Government and Vale of Glamorgan Council have strongly recommended that face coverings are worn by secondary school pupils when moving around common areas of school buildings. This means that, when you return to school, we are expecting that most members of staff and pupils will wear a face mask when moving around the school in the corridors at changeover times. You will not be expected to wear a face mask when eating/drinking at break or lunch.

As you may know, there are many medical reasons why some staff and pupils are not able to wear a face mask so this will not apply to them. It is very important that everyone feels safe and secure at school, whatever their individual circumstances, so if you notice that someone is not wearing a mask you must not ask them to explain their reason to you. We all need to make sure that we are maintaining high standards of hygiene and also that we are being respectful of the people around us.

Here are the recommendations for how to wear a face mask effectively:

Do:

- Clean your hands before touching the covering
- Inspect the covering for damage or if dirty
- Adjust the covering to your face without leaving gaps on the sides
- Cover your mouth, nose and chin
- Clean your hands before removing the covering
- Remove the covering by the straps behind the ears or head
- Pull the covering away from your face
- Store the covering in a clean plastic, re-sealable bag if it is not dirty or wet and you plan to re-use it
- Remove the covering by the straps when you take it out of the bag
- Wash the covering in soap or detergent, preferably with hot water at least once a day
- Clean your hands after removing the covering

Do not:

- Do not use a covering that looks damaged
- Do not wear a loose covering (tying a knot at the end of the ear loops will tighten the fit)
- Do not wear the covering under the nose

We hope that you enjoy your last few days of holidays and look forward to seeing you back at school soon.