

28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

September 2020 - Face coverings in Don Valley Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to the Academy for the new academic year.

You should have already received a personalised postcard giving specific information as to when your child is expected to arrive to the Academy for their first day of term. If you have not received this, please see our website for specific year group details. We are excited to see all our students in person and have worked extremely hard to put measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. Our aim is to do everything we can so we can continue to provide face to face education throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

You will already have seen the information we have provided about the changes we have made, and we have now launched a video to show how the Academy 'bubbles' will operate. This video can be found on our website <https://www.donvalleyacademy.org.uk/september-return>

Information shared includes:

- Zoned areas for year group bubbles
- Re-organisation of classrooms
- Limited movement of students, with the majority of lessons being based in the same teaching classroom and staff coming to the students.
- Staggered start / finish times
- Staggered lunch and breaks
- Additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- Additional handwashing/ hand sanitiser stations

We have continued to review the Government's guidance over the summer, including the most recent information on face coverings in schools.

As part of our extended plans to keep everyone as safe as possible, we will **expect all students and staff to use face coverings in corridors and communal areas**. This expectation is in place across all Delta Trust Academies.

Students will be required to wear their face coverings when:

- Entering the Academy and until they are seated in their classroom
- Moving on the corridors, either escorted to specialist teaching areas or moving to an option subject group
- Going to and from the toilets
- Moving to their break/lunch time communal space *
- Queuing for food at break/lunch times
- Leaving the Academy and until they have exited the Academy buildings

*Once students are seated in their lunch/break communal area, students can remove their facemask.

Staff will wear full face visor or face covering whilst moving on the corridors and whilst on duty supporting students in their bubble areas. Students and staff will maintain a social distance of 2 metres when interacting with each other.

To support you, the Academy will provide your child with three reusable face coverings. Face coverings should be washed daily. Students will be provided with a plastic sealable bag to place their face covering into when not in use. There will be no charge for these face coverings. Subject to availability, we will provide different colours to different year groups, in order to support our zoned bubble approach and the organisation of break and lunchtimes. Furthermore, all students will be shown how to correctly wear and remove facemasks using the WHO (World Health Organisation) guidance.

Until your child receives these face coverings from us, please ensure your child comes to the Academy with their own face covering, which needs to be appropriate by completely covering the nose and mouth. We will keep you informed via School Comms when the face coverings arrive in the Academy and will be given out to students as soon as possible.

The Government has provided details of exemptions to the requirement to wear face coverings. More information can be found via this link

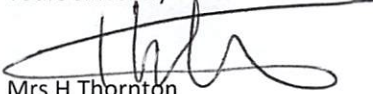
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education>.

Please contact your child's Learning Manager if your child will not be able to wear a face covering for one of the reasons stated in the guidance.

Our aim, as always, is to provide an outstanding education for your child. We understand the anxieties of children who have not been able to attend school for several months and those of their parents. Staff have been working hard to develop a wide range of activities, including additional tuition, to support your children in making up this lost time. We recognise that, like us, you will be eager to see your child benefit from these plans and would like to thank you again for your continued support. Please be assured that we are continually monitoring Government guidance as the Autumn term progresses.

Finally, please find below additional Government information for parents/carers which you may find useful.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Thornton
Principal

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Please continue to follow this advice if your child or a member of your household are showing Covid19 symptoms. In particular: do not send your child to the Academy if:

- They are showing Coronanvirus symptoms <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
- Someone in their household is showing symptoms

Please arrange a test if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform us of the results as soon as possible.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

If the test is positive, follow the Government guidance for self-isolation and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

This will help up to minimise any interruption to teaching and learning in the Academy and help us to provide appropriate remote support for any child with symptoms.