

19 October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

## **Face Coverings**

As you are aware additional restrictions came into place from 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for the London area as the Government has announced a move to Tier 2 (High) alert.

The additional restrictions focus on the mixing of households in indoor spaces. The Government has confirmed that schools should remain open ensuring all children can attend school safely, to support their well-being and education.

I am obliged to inform you that the wearing of face coverings in communal areas of the school are mandatory from Monday 19th October 2020. Students and staff MUST wear face coverings in all communal areas such as in corridors, when moving around the school and in social spaces such as the Canteen where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

The new restrictions do not affect Duke's current teaching arrangements. We are continuing with a face to face approach and ensuring that the Academy is safe for those who need to use it. This will be kept under constant review.

It is not necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.

The safety of all the Duke's community is my chief concern at this time and I am therefore asking for your support in encouraging your son or daughter to comply with this directive. I would also request that parents/carers encourage their sons/daughters to wear a face covering when using public transport.

Yours sincerely,

**Monica Duncan** 

Principal

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