



Castledon School

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Dear Parents and Carers

30th October 2020

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

As I am sure you are aware, as of 22nd October, Essex moved to Local COVID-19 Alert Level High. As a result of this, changes to school guidance now state that, in educational settings for Year 7 and above, face coverings should be worn by students and adults (staff and visitors) when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas, where social distancing is difficult to maintain (unless an individual is exempt from doing so).

Castledon School already has a number of preventative safety measures in place, for example:

- We have divided the Academy into two relatively small 'bubbles' (around 110 pupils in the School and 110 students in the College)
- Frequent hand washing is taking place in all areas of the School and College
- Staggered starts ensure that mixing of pupils and adults is minimised

In some respects, the new guidance will not change the way that we currently operate, for example:

- Pupils in Year 6 and below are not required to wear face coverings
- Face coverings are not required to be worn during lessons by any age group (either in classes or other areas where learning is taking place)
- Face coverings are not required to be worn in communal eating areas
- Many young people at the school are exempt from wearing of face coverings
- Almost all of our classes in School and College open directly onto the outside, so corridors are only infrequently needed to move around the site
- Staggered entry into and out of buildings when accessing learning areas or communal eating areas to ensure social distancing

It is hoped that these measures will reduce the need for pupils to wear face coverings while on the Castledon site. However, we are asking that each pupil in Year 7 and above (and who is not exempt) does bring in a face covering for those occasions inside the building (but outside of classes) where social distancing is not possible.

Staff (unless exempt) will now be wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas. We will also be asking all visitors to the school to wear face coverings inside buildings. This does not apply when dropping off and collecting your child outside where social distancing is being practised. Can we ask that for all non-urgent communication emails and telephone calls are used to minimise face to face contact.

Can I remind you that if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 then they must not come into School or College and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or by calling 119. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your support bubble. Further information is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/COVID-19-stay-at-home-guidance.

Please can we ask that you keep us informed of any positive tests but also if your household is self-isolating.

We are in the process of putting together our home learning offer for students that cannot come into school due to self-isolation. You will be contacted by the teacher to discuss ways we can help support your child's learning while they are at home.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to welcoming back pupils/students on Monday 2nd November.

In the meantime, thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully

J Hazelgrove

Jon Hazelgrove

Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead