



Our Ref: HeadteacherSA: parental ltrs/POS/JOD
Date: 27th August 2020

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Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, on Tuesday evening, the government changed their advice surrounding the wearing of face masks in school. Previously they had said that the wearing of masks should not be necessary in any school. This has now been updated and the Department for Education has stated;

“Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.

*In addition, the government have advised additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as **listed on gov.uk**, the government’s guidance has stated face coverings should be worn by adults and students in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning.*

Our local area has a low rate of Covid-19 infection and transmission and as a school we have taken a number of precautions to minimise any risk, as outlined in previous correspondence to you and available on the website: www.ruskinhighschool.co.uk Therefore, in line with the above government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory in any area of the school.

However, I absolutely recognise that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridors and social/communal areas and I am happy for them to do so should they choose to. Students will not be permitted to wear their face mask in the classroom. Please note that masks must be plain in appearance, no logos or motifs, and must be worn appropriately and sensibly. Any student intentionally misusing a mask will be required to take it off.

I will of course review this decision in light of any updated government guidance and any changes in the local situation. The government guidance can be found in the link below.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

D Postlethwaite
 Headteacher (Acting)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-face-coverings-in-schools>

