



# HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”  
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



13 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re - Face Coverings

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday around the next phase of the 'roadmap' to unlock society, we wanted to write to you to confirm our position around face coverings.

Given the concerns around new variants, the local outbreaks reported in neighbouring councils, the further 'opening up' of society it would be remiss of us to disregard the role that current precautionary measures play in safeguarding our school community. Furthermore, our staff body is relatively young and over 30% are yet to receive their first vaccinations and only 5% of staff are fully vaccinated. Whilst we acknowledge that the chances of hospitalisation and serious illness are low, a rising infection rate could force staff to isolate or self-isolate due to a positive test and/or being a close contact. We have worked tirelessly for over a year to avoid school closure and any major year group disruption and this is something we are asking for your support on to ensure it stays that way.

The revised DFE guidance around face coverings is as follows:-

*"In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms **where social distancing is not possible** (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas)."*

In addition to the need to protect our staff body, the fact that our school site is unique, and in places provides limited opportunity for social distancing, we will be updating our school guidance as follows:-

- Whilst students may continue to wear face coverings if they wish, they no longer need to wear them in lessons. This means that face coverings are no longer required when seated in lessons, when sitting in social/dining facilities or when moving outside around the school site.
- We will be asking all students to continue to wear face coverings when moving around congested spaces such as when moving around corridors, on stairways and when queuing in close proximity at break and lunch.

Students have been informed of this today and are fully supportive of the need to protect their teachers. Their desire to safeguard the staff and their learning is a testament to the positivity they have shown throughout the pandemic and we are incredibly proud of their support.

In the event of any rise in infection, or local outbreak we may have to revise these guidelines in line with the additional DFE guidance below:-

*"The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. This just lays out the rules now in a safe space to avoid any potential future issues - though we all hope it would never come to that".*

**Telephone:** 01773 716396  
**Fax:** 01773 765814  
**Website:** [www.heanorgate.org.uk](http://www.heanorgate.org.uk)  
**Email:** [mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Kirkley Drive, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7RA

As always, we thank you for all of your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's Achievement Leader/Assistant Achievement Leader.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Huntington'.

Mr S Huntington  
Executive Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Jones'.

Mr M Jones  
Senior Vice Principal