

Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been such a pleasure to see all of our students finally back in school this week. They have engaged in their induction activities in a really positive way and I know they appreciate the new wing of the building which will make their learning experience so much better.

As mentioned in my letter last week, we are constantly reviewing our systems and processes relating to our new ways of working to ensure that both staff and students can return to school/work full-time and that we to minimise the risk as much as possible to the RGTS community.

Face Coverings

The Trust stance on face coverings was that they are not required for students in school because we are fortunate in that our corridors are wide and generally allow for social distancing to be adhered to. The only exception to this is the science and art corridor where we have introduced a one-way system. In addition, our communal areas are broadly spacious and airy.

Having seen the school in action and kept abreast with updates from the Government in relation to the increase in confirmed cases, the launch of the 'Hands.Face.Space' campaign <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-prevent-spread-of-coronavirus-indoors-this-winter> and the introduction of the 'rule of six', the headteachers and members of the Trust Executive team have reviewed our practice and have agreed the following changes, which will be effective as from Monday 14th September 2020:

- students will be able to wear face masks in communal areas, but not in dining areas or in lessons.
- staff/visitors will still be able to wear visors in communal areas and in teaching spaces. They will also be able to wear face masks in communal areas outside of teaching spaces and in areas where social distancing is less easy to maintain e.g. when supervising students entering/leaving the site, when supervising handwashing or toilets queues and duty points in busy areas during unstructured time.

I must remind parents/carers of the expectations around the safe usage of face masks:

- it is the responsibility of the parents/carer to provide face masks for their son/daughter
- the face mask used in school must be separate to any face mask worn on the way to/from school
- throughout their journey to and from school, your child's school face mask must be stored securely in a sealed plastic bag within their school bag
- if your child should lose their school face mask, it is your responsibility to replace it
- it is your child's responsibility to ensure they remove any face masks on entering the building and dispose of them or place any reusable ones in a clear plastic bag (which is different to the one used to store a face mask used on site) then sanitise their hands before putting their school face mask
- face masks can only be used in communal areas (not in eating areas) during unstructured times, such as when moving between classrooms or at break and lunch time
- students must not put their face mask down on any surface
- students must wear their face mask properly i.e. around both ears, covering their nose & mouth, not around the chin or neck area.

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I stress that it is your parental responsibility to provide your child with a face mask for use solely in school which must be kept completely separate to any face mask they use for travelling to and from school.

In the event of there being any inappropriate use of or negative behaviours associated with the use of face masks, we will follow these up and this may result in a sanction being employed and/or parental contact being made.

If you would like to discuss the use of a face covering by your child (in the form of a visor) in lessons, please contact us so that an appointment can be arranged. This is so that we can agree upon the purpose, usage and hygiene matters related to this.

It remains the case that, if disposable face masks are worn for travel to site and then removed, they must be placed straight into a bin with a lid and the wearer should wash/sanitise their hands. If fabric face masks are worn for travel to site and then removed, they should be placed into a sealable plastic bag (provided by the wearer) and the wearer should then wash/sanitise their hands.

We received a communication from a member of the public who observed some of our students in a shop in Woolwich and commented on how courteous and polite they were but also raised the fact that virtually all of them were without a face covering. Please remind your child of the need to wear a face covering in any shops they visit on the way to and/or from school. It should not be the role of the shop staff to remind or enforce this.

Travel Arrangements

As communicated previously, where at all possible, students should avoid using public transport. Although TfL have put on extra buses designated for school children, we have already observed that many of these are quickly at capacity. TfL would appreciate parental support in this matter.

Students are encouraged to cycle to school and we do have new bike racks at the back of the site which can be utilised. Further information is available from the Student Services team.

Students need to make their way to and from school in a calm and orderly manner. They should not loiter around the school or within the local area. Parents/carers are reminded that students must arrive at their designated arrival time and not before as early arrivals cannot be accommodated on the site.

Year Group	Entry/Exit Point	School entry time	Dismissal Time
7	Front of site, via front gate	9:00 am	2:50 pm
8	Side of site, via side gate	9:15 am	3:00 pm
9	Rear of site, via back gate	9:00 am	2:50 pm
10	Rear of site, via back gate	9:15 am	3:00 pm
12	Rear of site, via back gate	9:25 am	3:15pm
13	Rear of site, via back gate	9:25 am	3:15pm

Other reminders

Water bottles – children have access to tap water in school at break time and lunchtime provided in jugs on the canteen tables. Unfortunately we are unable to provide cups – disposable or otherwise – due to the guidance provided by the government. **A re-usable water bottle is now part of the essential equipment for every child to be provided by families; no disposable cups are available at break and lunchtime.**

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On days where your child is timetabled for PE at period 1 they are allowed to arrive to school in their PE uniform as long as they have their regular complete uniform with them. If your child has PE at any other period in the day, they must arrive in full uniform and change for PE when the time arrives.

I appreciate that changes in practice may be frustrating to parents/carers but we are doing our best to be responsive and to act in the best interest of our whole school community. Your support, as always, is very much appreciated.

You can find all documentation relating to our response to Covid-19 on our school website or by following this link: <https://www.rgtrustschool.net/about-us/coronavirus-information>

If you have a question relating to this communication, please contact Mrs Nesbitt, Student Services Manager, Contact details (Nesbitt.a@rgtrustschool.net 0208 312 5480 ext. 522)

If you have any general questions about the school, please contact our school reception team who will direct your enquiry to the most appropriate colleague. Contact details (info@rgtrustschool.net 0208 312 5480).

Yours faithfully



Caroline Longhurst
Headteacher