

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS10th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are only two days in to the compulsory wearing of face coverings in secondary schools and I just wanted to acknowledge the efforts of our students and families in their willingness to wear coverings where they are medically able. Students have been amazing in their compliance and I hope they are starting to appreciate that wearing a covering is as much about their efforts to protect others by lowering transmission potential as it is about protecting themselves.

However, a plea from me now for additional support please. Although almost all students are willing to wear a covering we have had significant numbers turn up without one. We have given them one but when asked they all state they have several at home (amazing how quickly we have gone from them being non-existent to now being part of our wardrobes) but have forgotten it today. I have suggested them getting used to putting one in their school bag, one in their blazer pocket and, where possible, one in their trouser/skirt pocket to ensure they have one. Over the last two days we have given out several hundred coverings which is a large financial commitment (although compulsory now in schools they are not being funded by the Government and any we supply are having to come from our own finances which means less money to spend on other educational commitments) and is not financially viable in the long run.

I would appreciate support from families in ensuring their children have, preferably, a few coverings in different places so they always have one on them. We have procured a small supply of reusable coverings and have also been donated some by a family so if you have a genuine difficulty in providing one then please do let your child's House Team know and we will ensure they have one.

On a different note, Barnados Charity have introduced a dedicated website and helpline aimed towards members of our black and Asian communities. It was highlighted as useful by some of our families so I am sharing it here in case it is of use to your family during this ongoing time <https://helpline.barnardos.org.uk/>

Finally, tomorrow is Remembrance Day. We will be doing a short piece of reflection followed by a 2 minute silence just after 11am. You may wish to discuss the significance of Remembrance Day with children in advance. We have poppies available in exchange for a donation and will ensure they are on the entrance tables tomorrow (sorry, despite the current trend the donation boxes are still cash, we don't have contactless facilities) if any students would like to have a poppy for tomorrow.

With best wishes and thank you again for the ongoing support,



Mr C Shaw
Principal