2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers.

Face Coverings for Secondary Students

As Leicester is still under some lockdown restrictions, the latest government guidance requires students in Year 7 and above to wear a face covering in the corridors/communal areas until the lockdown measures are eased. This guidance only applies to secondary students, children in primary are not required to wear a face covering.

Over the summer we have put extensive planning in place to restrict any occasions where there is the possibility of continued close contact between children from separate cohorts/ bubbles. Due to this detailed planning, there are limited occasions when students would be required to wear a face covering where social distancing measures cannot be met. Therefore, students will only be required to wear a face covering at the following times:

- 1. As they arrive at school and enter the building and move to tutor time
- 2. When moving in corridors at lesson changeover time.

Students and staff will not wear face coverings in the classroom.

After monitoring the end of school proceedings today I have taken the decision to stagger leaving times so students are not required to wear masks at the end of the school day. Students will be escorted by staff to support social distancing. Students will be required to leave site immediately and not to hang around to wait for others. Parents are also asked to leave the area quickly once you have collected your child to avoid pinch points forming. Please see the table below:

Year Group	Exit Route	Exit Time
7	Car Park Gate	3:10PM
8	Car Park Gate	3:15PM
9	Reception	3:10PM
10	Reception	3:15PM
11	Side gate (Saffron Lane)	3:15PM

Leicester City Council have provided us with cloth face coverings. These can be washed using warm soapy water. This **must** be done each evening so it is clean and ready for the next day at school. We have also provided a small plastic bag for children to use to keep their face covering clean and dry when not in use. We have spent time in tutor time showing the students how to safely remove and look after their face coverings.

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I know that some parents have raised concerns about their children wearing a face covering but due to the measures we have in place students will only be required to cover their face for short periods of time. However, if you are still worried please do not hesitate to contact the school and come and meet with me so we can discuss your concerns.

You may find the following links useful for more information:

 $\underline{https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education}$ 

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks

We are doing everything we can to ensure a positive and happy start to the return to school for our children and staff. I will continue to update you and to provide as much clarity as I can to support this aim. Please continue to contact us should you need any further guidance or support; in the meantime, thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

If you have any queries, please email <u>office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk</u> or call 0116 278 0232. Please be aware that the academy site remains **closed to visitors**. **Appointments with staff must be arranged in advance**, please use the contact details above to ask for an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Alan Wilkinson

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