

18 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to ask for your support as we endeavour to implement further measures to protect staff, students and their families from the potential spread of Covid-19. As from Monday 21st September, we will be requesting all students to wear a face covering when they enter a building, change classrooms, queue for lunch and any inside communal areas. Students will not be expected to wear a face covering during lessons, whilst eating and drinking at break/lunch time and when outside.

Please do emphasise with your child that in wearing a face covering in these areas they are playing their part to show responsibility towards others. Your child should also be reminded of the need to wear a face covering in shops and on public transport to ensure that they are doing their best to protect themselves and others.

We have always stated that keeping staff and students safe is our priority. We want everyone in our Academy community to be as protected as possible from illness and from further possible school disruption. We have been impressed by the students positive return to school and hope that, by a combined effort of taking the additional steps of encouraging face coverings inside buildings, we can remain in this environment safely and continue teaching and learning together.

The DfE states that the *“Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.”*

Outlined below are additional points to be considered and discussed with your child:

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- be of a plain design, appropriate for school
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged.

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you’ve touched it
- avoid touching your face or face covering, as you could contaminate them with germs from your hands.

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed.

If there is a specific reason that your child is not able to wear a face covering please do contact the school via enquiries@astrea-longsands.org We are asking for the support of parents and carers to ensure their child has a clean face covering with them and wears it responsibly.

On behalf of the Longsands staff body, I thank you for your anticipated support as we work together to ensure the safety of your children and each other.

Yours sincerely



Mr N D Owen
Principal

Longsands Academy
Longsands Road, St Neots
Cambridgeshire, PE19 1LQ
Principal: Neil Owen

01480 353535
enquiries@astrea-longsands.org
www.astrea-longsands.org

