

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement on the 25th August regarding the use of face coverings in school this is an update on Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Forms response based on the current guidance. This email is in addition to the current risk assessment (which will be updated in September) and the letter sent to parents in July. All information can be found at: <https://www.kngs.co.uk/closure-information-introduction/school-opening-september-2020/>

This guidance applies to all students from years 7 to 13 and adults in school.

The government state that *“Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures. Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.”*

Although KNGS arrangements for September minimise student movement around school, as do staggered break and lunch times, due to the narrowness of our corridors I will be recommending that students and staff wear face coverings while in the corridors and inside communal areas when they are busy, this is likely to be at the beginning and the end of the day, at the changeover of lessons and during break and lunch times.

Should Birmingham become an area of local intervention (lockdown) the wearing of face coverings in corridors and communal areas is likely to become mandatory. At this point school will have a small stock of face coverings in school should they be required. Should students be concerned about acquiring face coverings they should discuss this with their tutor in September.

Face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom.

I am therefore asking you to provide your child with a face covering to wear while in the corridor and communal areas as described above. Face coverings should preferably be blue, black and plain but otherwise an appropriate colour or pattern for a work setting.

The safe wearing of face coverings is essential. Students should therefore:

- Clean their hands before and after touching them – including to remove or put them on. Students should be bringing their own hand sanitiser to school and this will also be available in classrooms.
- Face coverings should be stored safely in individual, sealable plastic bags between use.
- Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn, it should be stored in a sealed bag and the face covering should be replaced carefully. I recommend students bring a spare face covering to school.

More information regarding the safe wearing of face coverings and how to make your own can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

We are all very excited to be welcoming our students back to school next week and I hope you enjoy the last few days of the holiday.

Kind regards

Nicola Raggett