



Northampton School for Girls
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music college

27 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important update to the health and safety measures at the school

We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back to school next week, and to meeting our new Year 7 students and those joining us in the Sixth Form. Over the course of recent Results Days, I have been fortunate to meet many of our Year 11 and Year 13 students for the very first time and their maturity, fortitude and good humour has never failed to impress me.

As always, our main priority is the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff at the school. In July, I shared the 'Guide to Parents and Carers' with you ahead of our return in September with the details of the arrangements for our return in the new academic year. I am writing to you again today with an update to the self-isolation measures and the use of face coverings at the school, following new Government guidance that was issued earlier this month and to the announcement made by the Prime Minister on Tuesday 25th August regarding the use of face coverings in corridors and communal areas. Do take the time to read the following information carefully:

Update to the guidance on self-isolation

Government guidance now states that you should self-isolate **for at least 10 days** if you have symptoms of Covid-19 and you tested positive, had an unclear result or did not have a test, or if you tested positive but have not had symptoms.

If you do have symptoms of Covid-19, the 10 days starts from the date the symptoms first started. The guidance explains that **you can stop self-isolating after 10 days if either:**

- you do not have any symptoms
- you just have a cough or changes to your sense of smell or taste – these can last for weeks after the infection has gone

Students should not attend school if they have any symptoms of Covid-19; they should only leave home to take a test and stay at home for 10 days.

Headteacher: Cristina Taboada-Naya

Deputy Headteachers: Abigail Boddy, Catherine Carré



Update to the use of face coverings in schools

Without question, the area of greatest discussion in recent weeks regarding the return to school in September has been the use of face coverings. Until Tuesday 25th August, government guidance was that face coverings should not be used in schools. Following changes to the World Health Organisation's advice, the government guidance relating to the use of face coverings in corridors and communal areas of schools has now changed. Therefore, **we will now require all students to wear face coverings in corridors and in communal spaces (indoors) upon their return to school in September.** Please ensure that your child is aware of this and brings an appropriate face covering with them on the first day of school. We will continue to update you on the use of face coverings at school as the term progresses.

Some students may be exempt from wearing face coverings. If you believe your child falls into this category, please inform the school at the following email address: admin@nsg.northants.sch.uk

Currently, the government guidance does not extend to classroom settings. However, understandably, some of you have concerns about this – either for the safety of your own child, or for vulnerable family members outside of school. We have always valued your support and your feedback, and we have listened carefully to your concerns. Therefore, we have decided to permit the wearing of face coverings by students in other areas of the school, including classrooms, should they choose to do so. This is at the discretion of the school and is subject to the following three important conditions:

1. Any parent wanting their child to wear a face covering in school **must inform the school** by sending an email marked for the attention of Mrs Abigail Boddy, along with a completed consent form (attached to this letter) to admin@nsg.northants.sch.uk. The consent form commits students to adhere to our expectations for the responsible use of face coverings during the school day. It is important that you take the time to discuss this with your child to ensure they understand the expectations of them.
2. We must emphasise that school staff will not be able to assist any student in looking after their face covering and that it will be the student's responsibility. We trust our students to manage their face coverings responsibly and we are confident they will do so. However, if any doubt should arise about a student's ability to manage their face covering responsibly, we will review their opportunity to continue to wear a face covering.
3. The face covering worn by the student should meet the following guidelines:

A face covering should:

- cover your mouth and nose 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
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric
- 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

Headteacher: Cristina Taboada-Naya
Deputy Headteachers: Abigail Boddy, Catherine Carré



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
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you have touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession

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, place it in a clean bag/container (in your bag) kept solely for this purpose when you remove it
- 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 you would like further information about this, the current government guidance on responsible use of face coverings 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>

As Northampton is currently an 'area of intervention', in addition to the precautionary measures that we are implementing, we have also taken the decision to suspend all assemblies for the foreseeable future. Year 7 students that were due to attend an assembly in the Spinney Theatre on the morning of Thursday 3rd September should still proceed to the Spinney Theatre upon arrival at school. Once there, they will be swiftly registered, collected by their tutors and guided to their tutor rooms. Year 7 tutors are eagerly looking forward to meeting our newest students to the school. Senior staff and associate staff will be located across the school site to offer support and reassurance as students arrive.

We recognise that this is a situation that is changing at speed and I want to reassure you that we will keep this policy and other policies, including our risk assessment, under constant review; I will update you on any changes that are made accordingly. We hope our students enjoy the remaining days of the summer holiday and look forward to seeing them all next week.

Yours sincerely,



Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher

Headteacher: Cristina Taboada-Naya
Deputy Headteachers: Abigail Boddy, Catherine Carré



Covid-19 Strategic Response

Use of Face Coverings at Northampton School for Girls: Parental Consent Form

Name of Student	
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Tutor Group	
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Parental and Student Commitment

- I give permission for the student listed above to wear a face covering within the school building
- I understand that school staff will not be able to assist any student in looking after their face covering
- I understand that should any doubt arise about a student’s ability to manage their face covering responsibility they will be asked not to wear one in the future
- I confirm that both parent and student have read and understood the guidance below on **‘How to use a face covering responsibly’** and that the face covering worn by the student meets the guidelines

How to use a face covering responsibility

A face covering should:

- cover your mouth and nose 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
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the WHO 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
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you’ve touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession

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 residual 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

Full details 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>

Covid-19 Strategic Response

Name of Parent/Carer	
Parent/Carer Signature:	
Date:	

Name of Student	
Student Signature:	
Date:	