



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Principal: Mr E Hodges



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing to you to further update you on our progress this term, particularly in relation to our new arrangements to keep both students and staff as safe as possible. We have continued to adapt our plans slightly as we get into term. We have modified the year 7 and 9 social spaces and canteen access in order to ensure they run as smoothly as possible and have slightly tweaked the way teachers move to and leave from classes in the Key Stage 4 and 5 areas. These tweaks and adaptations will continue over time as we continually try to create both the safest and most educationally beneficial environment that we can.

With regard to this I wanted to make you aware of a slightly larger adaptation which will come into force from Monday 14th September 2020. It is clear that as we look at the national picture there is some cause for concern at present. As such we have seen the government this week increase restrictions on social groups that are allowed to meet. Whilst this guidance does not apply to schools, it has made us reflect, and therefore from Monday 14th September we will be requiring all students to wear a face covering as they move around whilst inside the school buildings. In practice this means that teachers will, when dismissing their classes, instruct students to put on a face covering as they leave the room. Similarly, students will arrive at their next lesson wearing a face covering and will be instructed to remove it as they enter the classroom.

This does not apply to students who have a medical condition which prevents them from wearing a mask, nor are masks currently required when pupils are outside. If your son or daughter has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask then please contact the school office via office@sjwms.org.uk.

Lessons themselves continue as they are. We agree with the view that wearing a mask is detrimental to the teaching and learning process and therefore we continue to take the view that masks should not be worn in lessons unless specific agreement has been reached with the school to the contrary.

I appreciate that as with all measures there will be some parents in favour of this move and others who disagree with it. I would ask you that regardless of your view you support the school as we do our best to navigate through this challenging time. Please ensure that your son or daughter has sufficient face coverings for next week. Please also ensure that they are appropriate for school i.e. plain and not of controversial design, and finally please ensure your child is familiar with the guidance on how to wear a face mask available here <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>

Yours sincerely

E Hodges
Principal

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