



Ysgol Maesydderwen

School & Sixth Form Centre | Ysgol a Chanolfan Chweched Dosbarth

Working Together, Achieving More | Cydweithio a Chyflawni

Return to school – Face coverings Update

2 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As I stated in the letter on 28 August 2020 the school has been working closely with Powys Local Authority on the use of Face Coverings within the school. In particular we have been waiting for further guidance on which to base any decision.

Today Powys County Council have informed the school of the following:

SECONDARY aged pupils are **strongly recommended** to wear a face covering in all contexts in schools where social distancing cannot be assured, which could include some classroom settings. Schools will support children entitled to free school meals to ensure that they have access to appropriate coverings.*

All schools' staff who work with pupils are to be issued with visors for their use.

**for learners who, for health or ALN reasons, cannot sustain the wearing of face coverings, we will be asking schools to consider ways of ensuring that they are effectively supported, and to minimize any potential victimisation of those learners.*

The Local Authority has also released a press statement which we will provide a link for you to view.

The school has considered the above statement along with our own Risk Assessment and we have decided to adopt the guidance provided by the Local Authority.

Therefore, from tomorrow morning, Thursday 3 September 2020, all learners will need to wear face coverings within the school. The wearing of face coverings will be in areas of the school where we cannot maintain social distancing. This will include corridors, indoor communal areas and in some lessons. Following the guidance provided above, if you have a child who should be exempt from the wearing of a face covering then please inform the school by emailing office@maesydderwen-hs.powys.sch.uk.

As we move forward learners should wear a clean face covering for each day they attend school. Hence, can I suggest that parents/carers ensure that their child(ren) have two appropriate washable face coverings.

We appreciate that the late timing of this email is not ideal for learners who are in school this week. Therefore, due to this late decision, we have secured non-reusable face coverings for learners who are attending school on Thursday and/or Friday. If your child does not have a face covering then one can be collected in a safe manner on each day as they enter the school.

From Monday 7 September all learners will need to have their own face covering. If your child(ren) are in receipt of free school meals then following the guidance from Powys we will look to support you in ensuring that your child(ren) have one. If you require support then please email

office@maesydderwern-hs.powys.sch.uk and we will contact you.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that for those learners who travel to school by the school bus or public transport the Local Authority has taken the decision to require the use of face coverings by secondary school learners.

I also want to reiterate that it is important to remember that the school is employing a number of different protective measures and all of these will be used to ensure we have a safe learning environment. In particular social/physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (catching a cough or sneeze in a tissue) remain strongly evidenced to be the most effective ways to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

As with all aspects relating to COVID-19 across many sectors and not just education the situation is fast moving and constantly changing. This has definitely been the case with the change of advice regarding face coverings. With this in mind I want to thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to welcoming our learners back to school to continue their education.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Grimes
Headteacher