



Monday 3rd January, 2022

Face Coverings in School - January 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Happy New Year to you and your families; I hope you managed to have a peaceful Christmas and all pupils enjoyed their break.

You are most likely aware from the media of the update to guidance for secondary schools on the wearing of face coverings. Guidance is as follows:

'Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19.'

Where pupils in year 7 (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021) and above are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by pupils, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas. This is a temporary measure.

From January 4th, we also recommend that in those schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

This will also be a temporary measure.

Pupils in these schools must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

We would not ordinarily expect teachers to wear a face covering in the classroom if they are at the front of the class, to support education delivery, although settings should be sensitive to the needs of individual teachers.

Face coverings do not need to be worn when outdoors.'

I therefore need to ask for your support again in requesting we all [other than those that are exempt] follow the guidance and wear a face covering whilst in school and travelling on public transport.

A reminder that our return to school details and information on testing was published in December, please use the link below to access this letter.

<https://www.stthomasmore.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Asymptomatic-Testing-in-January.pdf>

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 and 13 back to school on Tuesday and all other year groups on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Parkinson
Headteacher

OLD DURHAM ROAD, GATESHEAD
TYNE & WEAR, NE21 4BQ

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
CROFTDALE ROAD, BLAYDON,
TYNE & WEAR, NE21 4BQ

☎ 0191 499 0111
✉ info@stthomasmore.org.uk
🌐 www.stthomasmore.org.uk



The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust is an exempt charity. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number 07890590. The registered office address is Old Durham Road, Gateshead, NE9 6RZ.