



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James



25 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We continually monitor the most recent Government Covid-19 advice and review our Risk Assessment to ensure our control measures are robust to minimise the risk of infection.

Face Coverings

As a result of the tighter Government restrictions announced this week and in response to several comments from parents/carers and staff, we are changing the expectations regarding wearing of face coverings.

Previously we informed you that we 'highly recommend the wearing of face coverings in corridors and communal spaces, as this is where social distancing will be hardest to maintain.'

However, now ***we will expect students and staff to wear face coverings in corridors and communal indoor areas***, unless there is a specific medical reason or disability. Please inform the school if your child is not able to wear a face covering. They will be issued with a 'permission card' if staff ask them why a face covering is not being worn. Face coverings are also advised in outdoor areas if social distancing expectations cannot be followed. This expectation will start on ***Monday 5 October 2020***.

Wearing a mask is an ***additional precaution***, not a replacement for social distancing or behaving responsibly.

The guidance for wearing face coverings in classrooms will not change.

- We will not recommend the wearing of face coverings in classrooms, as the guidance advises against this and we feel it may hinder effective teaching. However, we also recognise that there is scope for personal choice so if teachers wish to wear PPE, they are entitled to do so. Students may wear a face covering if they choose as it may offer reassurance and a feeling of security for some.

All visitors to the school will also be expected to wear face coverings and follow social distancing guidelines.

Indoor Spaces and Year Group Bubbles

The use of the 'learning zones' and 'social zones' has been successful. However, as the weather is becoming more unpredictable and we wish to extend the curriculum provision for several subjects, we are making some adjustments to the use of the larger indoor facilities.



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We have completed a risk assessment on the use of the Sports Hall and fitness area so that they can be used by different year group bubbles on the same day if required. This decision is in line with Government guidance. Hand sanitiser will be used on entry to the facility and students will be expected to remain standing when receiving group feedback rather than sit on the floor.

As you are aware, we have introduced a new Behaviour Management system: the C system.

This may involve removal of a student from the classroom for a period of time. The Gym will be used for several year groups at the same time if necessary. Hand sanitiser will be used on entry and students will sit within a 'year group bubble', be separated by screens and follow social distancing guidelines.

NHS Test and Trace

Today, NHS Test and Trace has launched the [NHS COVID-19 app](#). The app has been launched to help control the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). It will do this by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action.

The app is available to download on smartphones for anyone aged 16 or over. We would encourage students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who are eligible to use the app and benefit from its features.

We appreciate these are yet more changes, but we hope you understand the reasons for these actions as we attempt to minimise the spread of infection.

Yours faithfully

Mr R James
Executive Headteacher
NEMAT CEO

Dr C Cusick
Head of School