

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am well aware that these are difficult times for us all, but the return of the students and staff to SWB has been tremendously positive in so many ways. It has been wonderful to see all students back in school, they have responded amazingly well to this situation. I would once again like to thank you for your continued support over the last few months.

I want to write to you today following the announcement that local authority leaders, directors of public health and the national government have made the decision to place Wolverhampton into local lockdown from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September following an increase in rates of transmission of COVID-19 in the area.

The local circumstances have meant that schools must now abide by safety restrictions prepared in the instance of government intervention in local areas, as is now the case here in Wolverhampton. This therefore applies to Ormiston SWB academy.

Ensuring everyone's health, safety and wellbeing, whilst maintaining a consistent education for our students with minimal disruption, has been and continues to be our absolute priority for this academic year. We are closely following all Government and local government guidance, and as a result of our robust contingency planning we already have the necessary preparations in place to appropriately respond to a range of scenarios relating to a local lockdown.

Moving into "Tier 1" will see very little change to how we are already safely operating our school, with various robust and precautionary safety measures in place. **We will remain fully open, full time, to all students and staff.**

This means that from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, **face coverings must now be worn by all students and staff when moving around the premises, including in corridors and communal areas** where social distancing cannot be easily maintained, in line with Government guidance. **We would suggest that students wear face coverings from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

Since the return to school this month, we have provided students and staff with the option of wearing a face covering at times during the school day, which many have chosen to do. We are aware some students are exempt from wearing face coverings for medical conditions. If this is the case for your child, please contact us to let us know via [JJONES@OSWBA.CO.UK](mailto:JJONES@OSWBA.CO.UK)

The school has a small supply of disposable masks to distribute to those students who are unable to obtain a face covering by Monday.

**We do expect the use of reusable masks or daily disposables, provided by yourselves, going forward.** Face coverings must be re-usable, **plain and non-branded, or of the daily disposable variety.** If you have any issues with accessing an appropriate face covering for your child, then please do contact the school directly via [JJONES@OSWBA.CO.UK](mailto:JJONES@OSWBA.CO.UK)

We will be continuing to operate the many other robust safety measures we have in place including social distancing, social bubbles, staggered school days, and increased hygiene and cleaning protocols to help limit any spread of the virus.

We do not yet know how long Wolverhampton will be placed into a local lockdown for, or whether we will progress to the further Government Tiers (2, 3 and 4) which would be implemented should the transmission rate of COVID-19 continue to increase locally. If we were to move to the next Tier (2), that would require a mix of on-site and remote learning as part of a rota system. However, should there be any changes or updates to the current Tier that we are in and the safety requirements, we will contact you immediately.

As you know, we have done all we can to ensure that your child has the best possible start to the new academic year, following an extraordinary few months, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in helping us do this. The health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and wider school community will continue to be our priority, but we will also do everything we can to minimise any disruption to your child's education. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



W R Hughes  
Principal.

## Wolverhampton Local Coronavirus Lockdown: SWB Face Masks and Face Coverings Guidance

On 18.09.20 it was announced that Wolverhampton will be placed into local lockdown, this is from 22.09.20.

In areas where there is a local lockdown, which is any area where the transmission of the virus is high. **Staff and students** must wear a face mask / covering when moving around our academy, such as in corridors and communal areas (the canteen / reception / corridors/stairs and stairwells and toilets) where social distancing amongst young people is difficult to maintain.

There are some medical exemptions to this Government rule. We are aware that some students will have medical conditions which prevent them from wearing a mask. These students will have an SWB Mask Pass.

For all non-exempt staff and students, their face masks must be plain in colour.



### How to correctly wear a face mask



- A face mask must cover your child's nose, mouth and chin.
- It should not be too loose.
- At SWB your child can choose to wear a visor, these do take up more space. So, you and your son / daughter will need to think about how this can be stored safely with them, when it is not required to be worn.

For a guide to help you help your child to safely put on and remove a mask you can click this link...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN\\_WTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk)



All masks must be kept in a sealable bag when not in use. It is important that all students wear a clean re-usable (preferably) mask each day. We recommend each student has two – one to wash and one to wear.

### When should students wear a mask?

- On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, all students will be briefed on the new rules. It is advisable for students to wear masks from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September onwards. However, this is mandatory from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September
- All non-medically exempt students **must put their mask on before standing up from their seat and leaving the classroom.** Their class teacher will indicate when this is to happen.
- Students must wear their mask when moving through corridors, as well as when queuing for food.
- Your son / daughter can remove their mask once they are outside of the building.
- Students can take their mask off to eat in their allocated dining area social distancing however, must be maintained.

### Where to bin a disposable mask?

- There are red bins with covers on around the academy, please remind your son / daughter that they must dispose of disposable masks in these.

If your son / daughter has any worries or questions about these new rules.

- Please encourage them to speak to their Head of Year in the first instance.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact us on the following email address;  
[Enquiries@oswba.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@oswba.co.uk)

We appreciate your support in these challenging and changing times. We also thank you in advance for your support in encouraging your child / children to follow the local lockdown guidance and restrictions both inside and outside the academy, this is to reduce the rate of infection and to protect our community, our academy and our loved ones.