

Clarification on wearing face masks / screens from March 8th

Following our newsletter article about the staggered return of our students from March 8th, we received some requests from parents to clarify our expectations of face coverings.

As a College, we are following the guidelines set out by the DfE which *strongly advises* (there is no legal obligation) the wearing of face coverings when in close proximity to others to reduce transmission. In the first instance, this would be the fabric face coverings as these are known to be most effective in minimising the spread of the virus, but the plastic face visors can also be worn (but are less effective in reducing transmission).

Eggbuckland Community College is strongly recommending that face masks are worn by all students at the following times to protect your child and our wider community:

- arriving and leaving the College site,
- in the corridors whilst moving between lessons,
- in lessons where it is not possible to remain socially distanced from each other, (if your child is in a lesson where it is possible to distance then there is reduced need for a mask/visor to be worn), and
- during social time when students are sat talking to their friends indoors.

When outdoors and socially distanced, there is no need to wear a screen or visor.

We are strongly recommending that face coverings are worn and will be actively reminding students to wear them during these times. *However, we (and all schools) are aware that the DfE guidance is clear, students not wearing a face covering cannot be a barrier to them receiving an education. In light of this there will obviously not be any sanctions for students not wearing them.* Equally if your child is medically exempt from wearing a face covering, they can continue to carry/wear their 'sunflower' lanyard/card if they choose.

For your interest, there is additional information for parents from the DfE which can be found here at this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965446/Face_coverings_in_education_-_March_2021.pdf