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Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils

As you will no doubt have heard, from Monday 31 August, pupils will need to wear a face covering on school buses, whilst moving about in the corridors or when using the indoor areas at break or lunch if not eating or drinking.

As a school we would like to strongly encourage the wearing of reusable face masks. From an environmental point of view, the impact of 420 pupils using a new disposable facemask everyday would be immense. I am sure we have all sadly seen, lying in the streets, facemasks that have not been disposed of appropriately. I am sure many of the young people will already have masks they use for accessing the shops but just as a guide, directly from the Scottish Government website <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

What is a face covering?

A face covering can be a covering of any type, except a face shield, that covers the mouth and nose. It is recommended that it be made of cloth or other textiles and should be two, and preferably three layers thick, and through which you can breathe. Religious face coverings that cover the mouth and the nose count as face coverings for these purposes. Transparent face coverings which assist communication for those who rely on lip reading and facial expressions can also be worn.

Face shields may be used, but only if they are worn in addition to a face covering underneath, as the evidence shows that they do not provide adequate protection. If you are unable to wear a face covering, a face visor or face shield can be worn as it does provide a limited level of protection.

Every time you apply or remove a covering, it is important that you wash or sanitise your hands first and avoid touching your face. When temporarily storing a face covering, such as in a pocket when moving between spaces, it should be placed in a washable bag or container and you should avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.

If your face covering is reusable, after each use you should wash the face covering at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water. If your face covering is not reusable, you should dispose of it safely in the general waste bin. Disposable face coverings and gloves cannot be recycled.

Don't create litter. Littering is a criminal offence and you can receive a fixed penalty of up to £80. Please respect our communities, wildlife and countryside and put disposable face coverings or gloves in the litter bin, or take them home to dispose of safely.

There are also many ways to make your own mask - <https://youtu.be/5RctqmSo2tU>

In relation/.



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In relation to Health and Safety measures for wearing face coverings, the following points are of vital importance, please ensure your child fully understands these:

- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Make sure the face covering is the right size to cover the nose, mouth and chin. Children should be taught how to wear the face covering properly, including not touching the front and not pulling it under the chin or into their mouth.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (e.g. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container. Avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically. Children and young people should be encouraged not to litter and to place their face coverings in the general waste bin.

Further expectations in the school is that face coverings worn have no offensive images or words on them or indeed nor should they be of a football related theme.

There will obviously be some pupils who are exempt from wearing a mask, as there are exceptions in general society. If you have a concern about your child wearing a mask due to medical or disability issues please email the school and inform us of your concern.

Once again, this is a change being introduced with the health and safety of the school community as the main priority. Just as they have coped so well with the changes over the past two weeks, I have no doubt the young people of Speyside High School will understand and work with us as this new procedure begins.

With kind regards

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher



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