



# HOUGHTON REGIS ACADEMY

**Principal:** Mr S White

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@HoughtonRegisAc

31.8.20

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you may be aware, the Government have recently changed their advice regarding the wearing of face masks / coverings in schools. Previously they had said that the wearing of masks should not be necessary in any school. This has now been updated and the Department for Education has stated;

*“Nationwide, while the Government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances. In addition, the Government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national Government intervention as listed on gov.uk, the Government’s guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning”*

Full information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

The local area of Houghton Regis currently has a low rate of Covid 19 infection and transmission and as a school we have taken a significant range of precautions to minimise any risk, as outlined in previous communication to you and available on the Academy website. Therefore, in line with the above Government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks or coverings mandatory in any area of the Academy.

However, I absolutely recognise that some students and staff will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask or covering in the corridors and or indoor communal areas and I am very happy for them to do so, they should not be worn in the classroom or outside at break and lunchtime. Please note that the mask or covering must be plain in appearance, no logos or motifs, and must be worn appropriately to cover the nose and mouth. In addition

- Face coverings / masks / visor and clear disposable bags should be provided by the wearer.
- The Academy will have a small quantity of coverings / masks / visors available for students and staff that forget, soil or mislay their own.
- Face coverings / masks / visors are the responsibility of the wearer and are not to be shared or given to another party. They must be considered to be potentially contaminated.

The Academy will make suitable arrangements on site for the disposal of face covering / masks by the wearer. Any students intentionally mis-using a mask or covering will be required to take it off.

***The Houghton Regis Academy is part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust Group of Academies***

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<http://www.greenwoodacademies.org>

Please do contact me if you would like your child to wear a covering or mask in the new term at [swhite@houghtonregisacademy.org](mailto:swhite@houghtonregisacademy.org) I will of course review this decision in light of any update or renewed Government guidance and any changes in the local situation.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. White', written in a cursive style.

Mr S. White  
**Principal**

#HRAwebelong