



28th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming back all learners this week. In this letter we have updated the information to include the school's policy on Face Coverings. Please read this information carefully and if you have any questions please contact school.

### **What is the school policy on Face Coverings?**

From 3rd September all learners and staff in secondary schools across the Watergrove Trust will be expected to wear a face mask when entering and leaving the building and at any time when not in the classroom, for instance when moving through corridors, going to the bathroom or at break and lunchtimes.

Face masks are **not** to be worn during lesson time as this can impede communication and affect learning.

### **What type of face covering is required?**

Face masks need to be worn and used correctly to ensure that they are effective.

Face masks which are worn behind the ears are the most appropriate. Bandanas and other coverings are not suitable.

Face masks must not have any inappropriate images or language on them.

### **Please ensure that your child(ren) have their names written on their face masks and they have a sealable plastic bag to store them safely**

Throughout the school day and form time we will provide guidance regarding the proper use of face masks and provide time for hand washing / sanitising.

### **Are there any exemptions to wearing a face covering?**

Tel: 01706 632910 | e-mail: [admin@mmhs.co.uk](mailto:admin@mmhs.co.uk) | [www.mmhs.co.uk](http://www.mmhs.co.uk)

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The guidance states:

“Some individuals are [exempt from wearing face coverings](#). For example people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, or if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate. The same exemptions will apply in education settings, and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs.”

Learners with SEND may not have to wear a face mask. Please contact Mrs Clay or Mrs Chadwick to discuss this.

Learners who have medical condition(s) which may prevent them from wearing a face mask may also be exempt. Please contact the relevant Head of Family or Mr Clough (Assistant Headteacher).

The policy on Face Coverings can be found on our website.

### **Will visitors have to wear face masks?**

Yes, all visitors will be expected to wear a face mask unless they are exempt.

We will be minimising the number of visitors to the school site.

Please arrange an appointment by calling the school or emailing [admin@mmhs.co.uk](mailto:admin@mmhs.co.uk).

### **Will the school bus be running?**

The school service No:808 will be running as normal. This is a dedicated school service and will be able to operate as normal.

Transport for Greater Manchester has issued the following guidance  
<https://tfgm.com/public-transport/schools>

The number of passengers on public transport may be reduced therefore if using public transport learners may have to leave earlier than usual to arrive at school on time. We strongly recommend that where possible learners walk to school.

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**When will school open?**

School opens on Thursday 3rd September for Year 7 only. Year 7 will enter through Learner Services on the left hand side of the school building. Parents will need to drop their children off on Matthew Moss Lane. School will be open from 8:30am for an 8:50am start.

The other Year groups will return on Friday 4th September.

Year Group	Start Time	Entrance	Area of School
7	8:50am	Learner Services	B Floor Green Block
8	9:30am	Sports Hall	MFL
9	10:30am	Humanities	Humanities
10	11:30am	Front of School	Maths Area
11	12:00pm	Front of School	C and D Floor

Members of staff will be on hand to guide learners and answer any questions.

**What time does school start and finish?**

School doors will be open from 8:30am and learners will need to be at school by 8:50am to enable them to wash their hands and get to their form room.

School finishes at 3:25pm and learners will leave via the doors they enter. Learners must go immediately home and not congregate outside school.

**What time will school start from Monday 7th September?**

School will start at 8:50am for all learners on Monday 7th September

**What will my child need to bring to school?**

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Learners will be given their own pencil case. They are allowed to bring their own equipment. This includes pens, pencils, rulers, rubbers and so on. Learners will not be allowed to share their equipment with other learners.

They will also need to bring their own water bottle. It would also help learners could bring their own hand sanitiser to be kept in their bag.

### **Does my child need to attend school?**

Yes. If your child has a health condition which is supported by a care plan then a meeting will be held to discuss what support school can put in place so that your child will receive their learning.

If you are anxious about your child returning to school, please contact Learner Services and they will discuss this with you. If your child does not attend school then usual measures will be taken in line with government guidelines.

### **What will the school day look like?**

Learners will need to arrive at school and be in their form rooms for 8:50am. School finishes at 3:25pm.

When learners enter the building they will go to their dedicated zone where they will be in 'year group bubbles'. For learners in Years 7, 8 and 9 they will be in class bubbles. Learners will stay in these zones for all lessons and teachers will move around the building. For Learners in KS4 they will follow their GCSE timetable in the relevant zones.

At break and lunch time each year group will be given a separate canteen and outdoor space. Learners will need to follow social distancing guidelines at these times. To enable all learners to have access to outdoor space we have increased breaktime to 25 minutes and reduced lunchtime to 40 minutes.

### **What will happen at break time and lunchtime?**

School has created 5 canteen areas for each year group. At break time learners will be able to purchase one item of food. At the moment school will only be able to provide a packed lunch offering for four days a week. On the other day there will be a hot meal choice. However, due to our limited menu, you may wish to provide your child with a packed lunch. This will be reviewed at a later date.

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### **How will I pay for school dinners?**

From September it is likely that school will be unable to accept cash to pay for school dinners. Therefore please ensure that you have a Parent Pay account set up. If you would like assistance with this please contact school. For those learners starting in September more information will be provided.

### **Will the breakfast club be open?**

Unfortunately, no. This is due to maintaining social distancing. This will be reviewed at a later date

### **Will learners be expected to wear full uniform?**

Yes, learners will be expected to wear full school uniform for school and PE. Learners need to be prepared that most PE lessons will take place outdoors.

Ties and badges are available from Reception. However, due to the circumstances learners will have until October half term to purchase these.

### **What can I do to help school and my child prepare for September?**

We appreciate that this has been a difficult time for our community and every family has had different experiences. However, if we work together we can support each other and get the best possible outcomes for our children.

### **Contact Us**

If you have any concerns about school or your child has suffered a bereavement or has struggled emotionally during lockdown please contact school so we can put the relevant support in place or answer your questions.

### **Get back into a routine**

Weeks before September get your child back into a school routine. Set good sleeping habits and talk to them about school and learning.

### **Discuss expectations around behaviour and hygiene**

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School will be different and there will be new guidelines and expectations that everyone in school has to follow. These have been put in place to protect all members of our community. We are not making any significant changes to our behaviour policy, however, we will be enforcing social distancing in line with government guidelines.

Learners will be expected to use hand sanitiser or wash their hands at several times during the day. This includes; entering the premises, after going to the toilet, before and after eating and so on. We will go through this with learners in school. However, if they could get into good habits at home this would help school greatly.

### **Encourage your child to walk or cycle to school**

Walking and cycling to school would be beneficial to learners' physical and mental health. It would also make Matthew Moss Lane a safer area which would be beneficial to everyone.

If catching public transport learners will need to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing.

If cycling please ensure your child(ren)'s bike is in good condition and that they wear an appropriate cycling helmet.

### **How can I speak to someone in school?**

If you have any questions please telephone, email or call into reception. However, inline with government guidelines only those with an appointment are allowed into the school building.

If you are coming to reception we kindly ask that you wait outside until called in to the building.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this letter to process..

On behalf of all the staff at Matthew Moss High School, thank you for your continued support during this time and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school in September.

Mr Jennings

Deputy Headteacher

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