

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope this finds you well?

I wrote to you on 25th August 2020 to outline the arrangements for the start of the new term (see the letter [HERE](#)). At that time, our government was unclear about the expectations for the wearing of face coverings in schools. I hope this letter gives you some clarity about this and a number of other issues.

Student Equipment

The letter published on 25th August 2020 also detailed classroom equipment expectations, noting that staff are not permitted to loan basic equipment to students due to hygiene considerations. The equipment students should attend school with every day should include:

Pens Pencils Coloured pencils (max. 8) Scientific calculator (Casio Fx83GTX) Scissors*	Ruler Pencil sharpener Rubber Highlighter Exercise books	Small glue stick Protractor Pair of compasses Reading book Chromebook (years 8 & 9)
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The list includes **scissors***. Please could we ask that scissors are the small/short, safety (blunt ended) type only. I include an example below from Amazon (other retailers are of course available!) for reference:



Westcott E-21581 00 Softgrip Kids Scissor, blunt tip, 5"/13 cm, blue

Buying for work? Discover Amazon Business, for business-exclusive pricing, downloadable VAT invoices and more. [Create a FREE account](#)

Visit the Westcott Store

★★★★★ 556 ratings

Amazon's Choice for "safety scissors"

Price: **£1.71** ✓prime

Pay ~~£4.74~~ £0.00: get a £10 Amazon Gift Card on approval for the Amazon Platinum Mastercard. Terms apply.

Note: This item is eligible for **click and collect**. Details

New (5) from **£1.71** ✓prime FREE Delivery

Colour Name: **blue**



Style Name: **blunt tip**

blunt tip | pointed tip

Pattern Name: **Single**

To avoid duplication, please note that all KS3 (Years 7-9) students will be asked to purchase the school art pack. It contains:

- Pencil
- Sharpener
- Fine Liner
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Glue Stick
- Colouring pencils
- Scissors (as per the image above)

Transport Update

Our transport providers have confirmed all bus services will be running. Students will be expected to wear face coverings on the buses and sit in their year group bubbles: KS5 (Year 12 & 13) and KS4 (Year 10 & 11) students at the back of buses and KS3 (Years 7-9) towards the front, with Year 7 at the very front. We will be loading the buses in this order and will reiterate these expectations to the students on our return to school.

STAR MAT Risk Assessment

We have recently uploaded the STAR MAT schools risk assessment (COVID-19) onto the school website for your reference.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing all our fantastic students again as they rejoin the school throughout next week.

Regards,

Mr A Parkinson
Headteacher

TADCASTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FACE COVERING PROTOCOL (COVID-19)

Within school bounds

Students (informed by the STAR MAT Protocol - on page 5)

- **Students should not normally wear face coverings in lessons or outside of lesson times when in school** - however, if wearing a face covering benefits a student's wellbeing, they may wear one.
- If students choose to wear a face covering at any time, they must adhere to the **SAFE REMOVAL OF FACE COVERINGS GUIDANCE** (below).
- Students are only permitted to wear a face covering which covers the nose and mouth.
- Students must provide their own face coverings.
- Face coverings should ideally be plain coloured and of an acceptable design for a school setting (face coverings should not have brands, logos, graphics on them).
- Year Team Leaders will act as the arbiter of what is an appropriate type of face covering.

Staff

- If wearing a face covering in school benefits a staff member's wellbeing, they may choose to do so.

Visitors to school

- In September 2020, school offices will, to all effect, be closed to visitors during the school day. However, it is recognised that some visits will be necessary, for example contractors and visiting professionals.
- All visitors to STAR MAT sites (including central STAR MAT employees) will be required to wear face coverings or masks (unless they are exempt from wearing one) as they enter school entrance areas to sign in and then to pass through communal spaces.

Parents and carers

- Parents and carers should only visit the school site (usually after 3.30pm) if invited by a named member of staff.
- It is recognised that drop-off and collection at some of our sites, whilst carefully planned, may be a point of risk for transmission.
- To help protect the entire school community, parents and carers are asked to minimise the number of collecting adults.
- Alongside this, all adults bringing/collecting from the school site are encouraged to wear face coverings at points of flow.

Safe Removal of Face Coverings Guidance

We prefer face coverings to be removed in classroom areas.

- Wash or sanitise your hands before and after removal of your face covering
- Don't touch the front part of the face covering or the part that has touched your nose or mouth
- If you are using a re-usable covering, store it in a plastic bag; if you are using in a disposable covering, place it in a lidded bin



The STAR Multi-Academy Trust – Use Of Face Coverings and Masks Protocol

DfE Guidance issued at the end of August states that in secondary schools there is the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if the schools believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.

Examples of where education leaders might decide to recommend the wearing of face coverings - for pupils and staff - in communal areas of a secondary education setting include:

- where the layout of the school or college estate makes it particularly difficult to maintain social distancing when staff and pupils are moving around the premises;
- where on top of hygiene measures and the system of controls recommended in the full opening guidance to schools and FE colleges and providers, permitting the use of face coverings for staff, pupils or other visitors would provide additional confidence to parents to support a full return of children to school or college.

The DfE advice is that in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible.

Face coverings and masks for Secondary School Students within the STAR MAT:

Our schools have risk assessed for re-opening and ensured social distancing is possible in the vast majority of situations. Therefore, as of 7th September 2020, the use of face-coverings within our secondary schools will be voluntary.

Despite social distancing arrangements being in place, we recognise that some students may wish to wear face coverings at secondary age, especially when moving around the school site and in communal areas. Therefore the STAR Multi-Academy Trust allows the wearing of face-coverings in its secondary schools and would support any student who would wish to wear a face covering in school as long as it is appropriate for school wear and covers only the nose and mouth. The individual school will remain the arbiter of what is an appropriate type of mask. Should the use of the face covering result in inappropriate behaviour or interactions with others, then permission for its use may need to be reviewed.

As with national guidance, we would discourage the use of face coverings within the classroom context, but students may keep them in place should they so wish.

This stance will be subject to frequent review alongside evolving national and local advice and appropriate communications issued should face coverings when moving around site need to be made mandatory (apart from for those exempt).

Department for Education reference: [HERE](#)

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