Southmoor Academy
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17th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Prevention Measures

Since the start of term we have aimed to be one step ahead in our precautionary measures to protect all pupils and staff. Because of this, earlier in the term, we asked that staff and pupils wear face coverings while they are moving between lessons, in corridors and communal areas, queuing outside and inside the restaurant areas when they are not consuming food or drink.

You will now have seen on local news that the seven local authorities across the North East (Sunderland City Council, Newcastle, Northumberland, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Gateshead and Durham) issued a joint request to local government earlier in the week, asking to introduce stricter COVID-19 prevention measures in response to rising infection rates across the North East.

A formal government announcement was made at midday today regarding the increase of restrictions in Sunderland and across the North East. Included in these restrictions is the **compulsory** use of face coverings in corridors and communal areas of schools for pupils in Year 7 and above, as well as staff and visitors. Further information about face coverings in schools is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education.

We would appreciate it if you would reinforce the importance of wearing face coverings in school with your child and explain the hygiene guidelines related to wearing masks.

We will also endeavour to tighten further, other measures we already have in place.

Again, thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Miss Garner
Acting Headteacher

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