



Dear Parents and Carers,

13th October 2020

Firstly, we hope you and your families are all safe and well. You will be aware that further restrictions are being suggested by the government around Covid-19. You will also be aware of the rising level of confirmed cases within our local community and beyond. Whilst we, as an academy, have not had to send a “bubble” home, we must not become complacent. We are currently concerned that too many students are choosing not to wear masks in communal areas and the school corridors. This is an important part in our efforts to mitigate any risk of spread of Coronavirus in our academy community and beyond. As such, from tomorrow, **Wednesday 14th October 2020**, our default position is that we will expect students to wear masks indoors at all times (other than in lessons) and in narrow two way passageways outside which will be indicated by arrows on the floor UNLESS we have been given formal instruction from parents or carers indicating that they OPT OUT and do not want their child to wear a mask at any time in the academy (we do not require an explanation of this decision such as medical or personal preference). We will inform all staff of those students who have opted out and in time, we will also issue a card to the student that verifies they have opted out.

In all cases where students are expected to wear masks, they must be provided by parents or carers. Please ensure your child has an appropriate mask. If you need support for any reason in obtaining a mask for your child, please let us know.

If you wish for your child to not wear a mask at all in the academy, please complete the attached slip and return to your child’s lesson one teacher by **Friday 16th October 2020**. Alternatively, you can email it to academy.office@suttonacademy.attrust.org.uk. Should you wish this to be the case this week, please ask your child to carry the note with them at all times over the next two days and to give it to their teacher on Friday morning period 1.

Of course, if there are further changes in government guidance we will review these and update you further.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation during this challenging period in our efforts to minimise the risks and ultimately, to keep our staff and students safe.

Best regards,

Principal

Please complete and return the slip below ONLY if you do not want your child to be expected to wear a mask in communal areas of the academy.

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MASKS - OPT OUT SLIP

Student’s name: _____ **Tutor:** _____

I, _____, do not wish my child to wear a mask in the academy at any time.

Signed: _____ Date: _____