

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome our young people back into our secondary schools for the first stage of our Covid-19 recovery plans. The students have been invited back on specific days only this week to enable them to get used to being in the bubbles of their year groups.

By introducing our students in stages we have been able to give them clear instructions on where they will be based, areas that will be accessible to their year group and hygiene measures that will be non-negotiable in order to keep students and staff safe. Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing.

On 21 August, the World Health Organisation updated their advice on when children over the age of 12 should wear face coverings. Parents/Carers can allow their child to wear a face covering in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances. Chief Medical Officers have made it clear that the overall risks to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) in relation to education settings is low and that the risks associated with not being in school certainly outweigh those of being in school.

The government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures. For The Newbridge School, we have decided that should your child feel more comfortable wearing a face mask, then it is of course perfectly acceptable. Should the government guidance change and face masks become mandatory, we will of course adhere to this.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

As always, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Student Manager.

Thank you for your continued support over the past few months and for helping us to adhere to government guidelines over the first few days our new term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Farragher'.

Mrs K Farragher
Head of School, The Newbridge School