



Adapting to Change!

Looking ahead to another week of school, I am pleased to send you our latest 'Parent and Carer Update' that contains crucial information for you to know and to discuss with your child(ren).

You will probably be acutely aware that the Scottish Government updated rules for young people attending secondary schools this week, particularly the use of face coverings from Monday 31st August. In addition to this, we continue to review our preparedness in school for ensuring the health and safety of everybody associated with our school in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. These changes and how we all have to adapt to these are described in more detail for you in this 'Parent and Carer Update.'

The attitude of young people to the changes we have put in place for the health and safety of themselves and school staff continues to be excellent and I have no doubt that they will adapt to the new changes required in school with ease from 31st August. Once again, on behalf of all the staff at Lochside Academy, "thank you" to all our young people, parents and carers for ensuring that Lochside Academy operates well in this "new normal".

Neil Hendry, Head Teacher

Dropping off and picking up children by car

Please be aware that parents and carers are not permitted in the school building, school grounds or staff car park without prior agreement. Parents and carers who drop off their child(ren) must avoid driving onto the school estate. As a consequence, children being dropped off or picked up must take place at the roundabout beside Ikea as you approach the school estate (see photo below). It is disappointing that we have had to continue having school staff standing at the school gate to ensure this happens because of a small minority of drivers who have ignored this rule. Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated and ensures that school staff can be assigned to other roles in school instead of monitoring a gate. Having said that, thank you to the vast majority of parents and carers that have been cooperating with this rule and your positive response to this necessary change.



Speaking to a member of school staff

If a parent / carer wishes to talk to a member of school staff, they should telephone the school office in the first instance (01224 241720) and must avoid coming into the school building to request or arrange such a meeting.





Face Coverings

Q: What does the Scottish Government's rules about young people wearing face masks mean for those attending Lochside Academy?

A: From Monday 31st August, all young people and adults (except those who are exempt) in the school will be expected to wear a face covering (as identified in the information below) when:

- on all school and public transport to and from school;
- entering and leaving the school and moving around in the corridors to get to their classes;
- queuing in the canteen area at break and lunchtime, but not whilst eating;
- in social areas when inside at break and lunchtime due to adverse weather.

Pupils who do not bring a face covering to school will be provided with one and these will be available at entrances to the school.

Q: What is a face covering?

A: The Scottish Government defines a face covering as: *"a face covering can be a covering of any type, except a face shield, that covers the mouth and nose. It is recommended that it be made of cloth or other textiles and should be two, and preferably three layers thick, and through which you can breathe. Religious face coverings that cover the mouth and the nose count as face coverings for these purposes. Transparent face coverings which assist communication for those who rely on lip reading and facial expressions can also be worn."*

Q: Will my child(ren) have to wear or be allowed to wear face coverings in classrooms?

A: Anyone (whether young person or adult) wishing to wear a face covering in a classroom should be permitted to do so.

Face coverings should not generally be required in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments. However, face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) with other adults and/or young people.

Q: Where will it be compulsory for my child(ren) to wear face coverings?

A: The Scottish Government has made it very clear that young people must wear face coverings in the following circumstances (except where an adult or young person is exempt from wearing a covering):

- in line with the current arrangements when travelling on public transport, young people (aged 5 and over) will now be required to wear face coverings **on school and public transport** to and from school;
- when **entering and leaving school buildings**;
- when **moving around in the school corridors**, for example to get to classes between school periods or visit to the toilet;
- when **queuing in the canteen** area at break and lunchtime, but not whilst eating;
- **where physical distancing is not always possible**;
- when **inside social areas at lunchtimes due to adverse weather**.

Q: Can you describe who might be exempt from wearing a face covering?

A: Some people may have a reasonable excuse not to wear a face covering and be exempt. We will issue red bands to young people who require exemption, for example:

- **young people who have a health condition and a face covering would be inappropriate because it would cause difficulty, pain or distress**, for example if you are disabled, including hidden disabilities, have autism or a learning disability, or because you cannot apply a covering and wear it in the proper manner safely and consistently;
- **young people with breathing difficulties** and disabled young people who would struggle to wear a face covering;
- to seek **medical assistance**
- to **avoid injury**, illness or escape the risk of harm;
- you need to **eat or drink**;
- you are taking **medication**;
- you are **communicating with someone else who relies on lip reading** and facial expressions to communicate.

Q: How can my child(ren) be supported to wear their face covering correctly?

Of course it is vital that clear instructions are provided to young people and school staff about how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings to avoid inadvertently increasing the risk of Covid-19 being transmitted. The key points in relation to this are:

- face coverings should not be shared with others;
- hands should be cleaned or sanitised before putting on or removing a face covering;
- make sure the face covering is the right size and fits over nose, mouth and chin and children should be taught how to wear it properly, including not touching the front and not pulling under the chin or in their mouth;
- when temporarily storing a face covering (i.e. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container. It should not be placed on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination;
- re-usable face coverings should be washed daily at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water;
- disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically. Young people should be encouraged not to litter and to place face coverings in general waste as they are not clinical waste.

There will be regular messaging from Lochside Academy to young people, their parents and carers about these instructions. In addition to this, we will be placing signage about the wearing of face coverings in key locations around school.

You may find the following YouTube link about 'How To Wear A Face Covering' useful for your own information and to share this with your child(ren):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMSqc9SpbJc>



Adverse Weather Arrangements (AWA)

Whilst it is necessary for young people to vacate the school building when they have had lunch every day, we put in place 'Adverse Weather Arrangements' to be actioned on any lunchtime should the weather be very wet on any day. For your information these are:

1. Teaching staff will be emailed prior to lunchtime to inform pupils if AWA will be actioned;
2. Pupils will be released from classes as normal at the end of the period prior to lunchtime. Pupils having lunch in school should proceed to the canteen as normal. Once pupils have finished eating their lunch they will have the option of locating to a designated supervised space:
 - **S1** – Assembly Hall
 - **S2 & S3** – Sports Hall but in year bubbles
 - **S4** – Small Sports Hall
 - **S5/6** – Canteen Area
3. Pupils accessing halls will be required to socially distance and wear face coverings.

Guidance on Self-Isolating

Parents and carers across Aberdeen have been seeking further information on when their child(ren) should stay at home due to Covid-19. A letter from the Chief Education Officer was sent to all parents and carers. If you have not yet read that letter, you can access it here:

<https://lochside.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Letter-to-parents-on-self-isolation-agreed-with-Public-Health.pdf>

This letter identifies:

- the symptoms of Coronavirus;
- scenarios in which an individual would have to self-isolate;
- what it means to self-isolate a child?
- what you should do if a pupil has symptoms of Covid-19 or tested positive;
- what a pupil must do if informed by an NHS contact tracer that they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
- what happens if a pupil lives with someone who has symptoms or who has tested positive.