



WORCESTERSHIRE  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SECONDARY HEADS

March 2021

## **Return to Secondary School from 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Worcestershire Secondary Headteachers are committed to the safe return of all pupils and staff to face to face teaching from 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are most grateful to the many parents in our communities for their support, both over the last months whilst students have been at home, and in preparing for the return to school. Across all schools we are seeing very high uptake of opting in to rapid testing and adoption of all safety measures, and we thank our parents and students for this.

We believe that we should take advantage of all measures possible to keep our communities safe. This includes testing and, at present, the wearing of face masks in classrooms. We hope these are temporary measures, and indeed they are under review by government by Easter. We have no wish to prolong this measure more than necessary, but we do believe that at this time we need the support of all in our community, for the benefit of all. Infection rates in Worcestershire are still currently similar to late November, but thankfully on a downward trend. (<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/COVIDdashboard>). For those parents who are unsure about the measure of face masks, and we understand the reluctance, we ask you to consider that most adults working in schools are still yet to receive their vaccination and we have more transmissible variants in circulation that were not present in Autumn. The wearing of face coverings is a measure recommended by central government on the medical advice provided to them and is not a local school decision.

We believe our schools are safe, and we have carried out robust risk assessments to that effect. A key factor in achieving this is the adherence of everyone to all of the possible measures. Consequently, all Worcestershire secondary schools will be implementing the wearing of face masks on their sites, including in classrooms where social distancing is not possible. We hope that everyone who chooses to send their child to our schools is able to fully support the necessary measures for the early, and welcome, resumption of face to face learning.

Worcestershire Secondary Headteachers