

Wearing a Face Covering at College

We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back to college over the next few weeks. We've certainly missed seeing them around campus and in class.

We're really excited that schools and colleges are one of the first to open as we all emerge from this third Lockdown - so we all have a responsibility to make sure we stop the spread of the virus.

Making sure that everyone is safe when we return is extremely important.

To do this, we will be following **the government's advice to make sure everyone wears a face covering indoors**. This includes classrooms, social spaces and eateries. It does not include being outside as long as students follow social distancing guidelines.

Face coverings include, reusable or single-use face coverings, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering which must securely fit round the side of the face. However, we recognise that there are exceptions and those people will not be expected to wear a face covering. The exceptions are:

- If you have a hidden disability such as Autism or ADHD
- If you cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because you have a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- If you cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering as this will cause you severe distress
- If you have a severe respiratory and/or medical condition
- If you rely on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate

Students who are exempt will need to do the following:

1. **Bring supporting evidence** to college with them on their **First Day** (w/c 8 March). This should **explain the reason for exemption** and why they are unable to wear a face covering. A **parent/carer must support** this request as we are trying to keep everyone at college safe. This can be in the form of a text or an email.
2. **Share it** with the Wellbeing Team and/or member of staff when asked. If students don't have evidence, they will need to **contact a parent requesting a supporting statement** by email.

Students can forward this email to the relevant Wellbeing team member at each campus:

Lewes: julia.proven@escg.ac.uk

Eastbourne: helen.ding@escg.ac.uk

Hastings: lydia.leonard@escg.ac.uk

3. If students are exempt, **they will be given a white lanyard¹** to wear when on campus.

¹ This replaces the Hidden Disability lanyard which is now only worn by students on an Inclusive Learning programmes: Foundation Learning, Supported Education, Oak and Orchard, Steps, Project SEARCH, Personalised Provision, Supported Internship, Step Up, Explorer and Branching Out

If students do not have a face covering or a white lanyard, a member of staff will ask them to wear a face covering. If they do not follow the guidance from the government and college, **they might be sent home**, so we can protect them and everyone else at college.