

Ref: GSK/MLO  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **RE: Masks, Uniform standards and Trutex Recycling Scheme**

### **Masks in the Academy**

I am delighted to confirm that **as of Monday 17th May, students will no longer be expected to wear a mask in the Academy.** We are incredibly proud of how resilient and flexible our students have been throughout this last term; the wearing of masks inside classrooms has not phased them and their attitudes towards lessons and studies has not wavered as a result. I am, however, excited to get back to a situation where students can learn in a more comfortable environment, without the wearing of a mask. Staff will also not wear a mask in the classroom, but will still be seen wearing masks in communal areas where social distancing is more difficult.

### **Coats, Jumpers and Hoodies**

During the course of the year we have made some subtle amendments to our uniform standards in order to support our students and families, such as allowing coats on in the building during the colder months, in light of increased ventilation due to COVID. However, coats in the building have not been required for a number of months now due to the warming weather and with this in mind we are also now returning to the standard uniform policy on jumpers under blazers. The Outwood branded jumper is an optional item which students may choose to wear, however, alternative or plain black jumpers under blazers will now not be allowed. Hoodies should also not be worn on the Academy site and students will need to ensure that hoodies are in their bag before entering the school site. We would advocate that students bring a coat to school, so they are kept dry and warm if the weather was to change.

### **Uniform Policy and Trutex Recycling Scheme**

Our uniform policy remains the same for all other items of uniform and may I remind parents of the website page: <https://www.redcar.outwood.com/uniform> where details of how to order through our uniform supplier Trutex can be found. Over the coming weeks we will send out more information about Trutex's uniform recycling scheme, where Trutex will be cleaning, repairing and reselling uniforms. We will shortly be introducing a recycling point in the Academy where students can place uniform which is no longer required (due to leaving school or no longer fitting). The Academy will be able to select items which can be used to provide uniform to support low-income families also.

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## **Jewellery**

Jewellery is not allowed, other than a wrist watch. Smart watches are not allowed in the Academy. However, we have had a slight increase in the number of students wearing earrings or with piercings. Please can I advise that if any student is considering having their ears pierced (or any other piercing) that this should be done at the start of the summer holidays. As of Monday 7th June, any jewellery worn on the Academy site, will be confiscated and parents will need to collect from the Academy reception. We therefore ask for your support in ensuring that students remove their jewellery (or not wear jewellery at all) before they cross the purple line and enter the Academy each day.

I trust that the information in this letter is clear, however, should you have any questions then please contact the Learning Manager for your child in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Graham Skidmore  
Head of School