

## Face coverings at St Catharine's College

July 2021

From 19 July 2021, there is no longer a requirement to wear face coverings in indoor settings, although the College retains legal responsibility to protect our community from health and safety risks, including from the risks of COVID-19.

***The College asks that face coverings be worn by individuals using our shared indoor facilities, particularly in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you don't usually meet, subject to the recommendations outlined below.***

Members of the College community and visitors are therefore asked to carry a face covering with them at all times so they are prepared if they need to enter one of our shared indoor facilities.

Other precautions will be maintained and, where appropriate, these will be indicated on local signage (e.g. outside and inside meeting rooms). Most notably, social distancing of at least 1 metre will be encouraged to limit close contact with people you do not usually live with, and ventilation arrangements will be in place to reduce the possibility of COVID-19 being transmitted.

### **About this policy**

#### **Which shared indoor facilities does this policy cover?**

As part of a range of precautions, face coverings are recommended in the following spaces:

- The Catzebo unless seated
- The Bar unless seated
- The Ramsden Room unless seated
- The McGrath Centre unless seated
- The Rushmore Room unless seated
- The Shakeshaft Library unless seated
- The Upper Octagon (study space) unless seated
- The Chapel unless speaking or singing
- The JCR unless seated
- The MCR unless seated
- The MCR locker room
- Computer rooms unless seated
- The Lower Octagon (gym) unless exercising
- The Boathouse unless exercising
- The Sports Pavilion unless exercising or seated
- The Sports Courts unless exercising

Individuals gathering for larger events in any of these spaces or special services in the Chapel (such as weddings) will be expected to follow instructions specific to these circumstances.

#### **Are there any exemptions?**

You are no longer legally required to wear a face covering in any setting. As a result, you do not need to rely on an exemption if you need one.

The College recognises that there are a number of circumstances when it is not feasible to wear a face covering, including exercise and the consumption of food and drink. In addition, students **are not required** to wear face coverings when they are in their households with other students also living in that household, unless they wish to.

If you are ever unsure whether a face covering would be wise before entering an indoor space, please wear a face covering. This is also a courtesy to others, particularly when entering another person's office or household.

(Continued overleaf)

## **About face coverings**

### **What is a face covering?**

It can be a reusable cloth or a single-use disposable covering that must cover the nose, chin and side of the face, with no gaps. While reusable options are more environmentally responsible, single-use disposable coverings are available free of charge from the Island site (Porters' Lodge, MCR, Shakeshaft Library, Catzebo and Bar), St Chad's (Porters' Lodge), Russell Street (main entrance) and Sports Ground (Squash Court) for anyone who arrives at these sites without a face covering.

### **How to wear a face covering**

A face covering should securely cover both the nose and mouth. The St Catharine's community is expected to follow the [latest government advice](#) on safely wearing face coverings.

### **What to do with a used face covering**

Once you've taken a face covering off, it should be treated as though it is contaminated:

- Do **not** place it on surfaces such as table tops.
- Do **not** touch areas of the covering that have been in contact with your nose or mouth.
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of in a waste bin (unfortunately not recycling).
- Re-usable face covering should be stored until it can be washed – please carry a bag with you that you can put the face covering safely away.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed between uses – this can be done with other laundry.