



14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Practical Classes at Kelso High School - Face Coverings and Safety Glasses**

As part of the return to school we hope to commence practical work imminently in CDT, HE, Expressive Arts and Science. It has taken time to look at the safest way to operate these lessons for both our learners and staff. Following an extensive risk assessment process it has been concluded that in order to maintain health and safety for all, we would ask for young people to wear a mask/face covering within these subjects for practical lessons. This has not been an easy decision, but is based around health and safety with the following in mind:

- Teachers need to be able to intervene and support young people when dangerous equipment or techniques are in use. This is particularly important for our younger or inexperienced learners in order to ensure their safety as best we can.
- By having close proximity interventions teachers are unable maintain social distancing and will also potentially have extended time periods during the course of the day where they are unable to distance.

The request to wear a mask/face covering would only stand for the time allocation of the practical task(s).

The nature of the subjects and the style of support given to young people is where the difference comes in versus more traditional classroom based subjects. Staff in CDT, HE and Science are very keen to get practical lessons up and running as the value these add to our young peoples' experience are second to none. We hope, with your support, we can do this from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Safety Spectacles - In addition young people have been given a pair of safety spectacles. These are theirs to keep and can be used in both Science and CDT. They are expected to keep and look after these for the duration of their time in Kelso High School. There are no storage facilities for us to keep them in school therefore young people need to take them home with them and ensure that they bring them back each day that they are required. If they are forgotten the young person will be unable to participate in practical lessons that day. We are reducing the equipment that needs to be shared therefore there will not be spare spectacles available to borrow if you forget.

Our young people have been given safety spectacles free of charge. If they are lost or damaged they can be replaced at a cost of £2.00.

Many thanks for your support with this.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jill Lothian  
Head Teacher

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[www.kelsohighschool.org.uk](http://www.kelsohighschool.org.uk)

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