ROBINSON COLLEGE

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WEARING OF FACE MASKS/Coverings IN COLLEGE

As at 19 July 2021, the Government’s emergency powers come to an end and the mandated wearing of face coverings ended with them. In December 2021 the Government imposed “Plan B” measures which were then rescinded on 19 January 2022 removing the revised mandated wearing of face coverings.

It is understood that many people will feel nervous about the immediate and sudden stop of such precautionary behavioural requirements, especially in view of the continuing escalation of positive cases throughout the Country generally and in Cambridge in particular. Therefore, the following code of conduct has been drafted for adoption with the College precincts.

This code is NOT mandatory (unless otherwise stated as being so) but is strongly recommended:

- You are reminded that the wearing of face coverings is in the main designed to protect other people from the wearer though there is also a degree of protection that the wearer derives. The level of asymptomatic infection is still very high, even amongst those who have been fully vaccinated so you may well be carrying and spreading COVID-19 without knowing it. Wearing a face covering is therefore a considerate thing to do at the very least.

- You should wear a face covering in the following situations in College:
  - In indoor settings, where there is a gathering together of people in limited space, with limited ventilation and where the duration of the gathering is for a notable period of time (say over 10+ minutes); you should be prepared for windows/doors to be open to maximize ventilation and wear suitable clothing/coats;
  - Where an authorised instruction is issued – this might be as a result of a risk assessment for example or may be a directive made by someone in a position of authority – in these situations, the instruction should be considered mandatory;
  - When sharing any indoor or close proximity space with another individual who is uncomfortable with our not wearing a face covering; i.e. being caring, considerate and commonly courteous to each other;
  - In indoor settings where you are unable to maintain social distancing, if you have not been double-vaccinated and are therefore not fully protected.

Face coverings (whether transparent or cloth) should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth and be made with a breathable material capable of filtering airborne particles. A face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one. This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth, and do not filter airborne particles.

To reiterate, other than where specified, the code is NOT mandatory and therefore non-wearers should not be unreasonably challenged. Equally, non-wearers should consider the impact of their behaviour on others and the potential risk to others that they may be posing.

College Officers approved 16 July 2021
Reintroduced 20 January 2022 (after temporary suspension during Omicron outbreak)