



14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In line with updated government guidance, face coverings will no longer be required for students in school from Monday 17 May. However, I am sure you will agree that we must not become complacent and all other safety measures must remain strictly in place. This means that year group 'bubbles', strict hand and respiratory hygiene, well ventilated classrooms, one way systems for navigating the site, enhanced cleaning routines and staggered break and lunchtimes will continue to be operational.

From 17th May, our rules relating to face coverings will change in line with the [government guidance](#). Students:

- **must** continue to wear a face covering on school buses or public transport.
- are **not required** to wear a face covering in lessons.
- are **not required** to wear a face covering moving around the school site between lessons. *This is because we have one way systems that maximise external spaces to reduce mixing.*
- are **not required** to wear a face covering in communal areas at break or lunch time *This is because students are mixing only with their year group at these times. I.e. the same children they are in lessons with.*
- in the sixth form will still be required to wear a face covering in communal areas in the Sixth Form Centre. Mrs. Livings will communicate expectations on this to them

Students can still wear a face covering in lessons and around school if it will make them feel comfortable and safe. However, pastoral teams will intervene if this presents a behaviour management problem. Parents and Carers should also be aware that the guidance does set out that the reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised by Public Health for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.

I have updated the [control measures](#) page of the school website to reflect these changes. Students will watch a video in tutor time on Monday morning which will set out the changes to our expectations around face coverings. In the meantime, I would be grateful if parents and carers could explain these changes over the weekend.

We will follow the government guidance that staff and visitors to the school should continue to wear a face covering when they cannot maintain a social distance from each other or students. This means that students should still expect to see staff wear face coverings at some points during the school day. This is because there remains a significant proportion of the workforce under the age of 40 who will not have been vaccinated. All adults in the school will also continue with the practice of testing at home twice weekly, as you would expect.

We will continue to minimise the number of visitors in school. Staff will continue to conduct most meetings with parents over the phone or online. Please do not arrive at school without an appointment. The guidance does allow induction days for Year 6 and the Sixth Form to go ahead face-to-face in school and we will be in touch about these soon.

The removal of face coverings has been made possible in part due to twice weekly Covid testing by every adult and every student in the school; this has undoubtedly helped to keep our school safe and reduce the number of positive contacts. **Please may I implore you to continue to follow the twice weekly routine so that we can all continue to play our part in keeping everyone safe, especially as mitigation measures begin to relax.** Should a member of your household test positive, please isolate and report the positive test to us at school and to NHS 'track and trace' from where you will be given further guidance.

Thank you for your continued support and for continuing with testing twice a week at home. Your efforts are helping school stay open and safe for everyone.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. George'.

Andrew George
Head Teacher