



14/05/2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FACE MASKS

Dear Parent/Carer,

Earlier this week you will, no doubt, have heard the announcement from Prime Minister Boris Johnson, confirming that secondary aged school children no longer need to wear face coverings in school. The guidance schools have received from the Department of Education has also been very clear on this matter. However, I personally wanted to take the opportunity to clarify with you, our individual school expectations and responsibilities in this regard, which I hope you will find reassuring and supportive.

All our current mitigating actions will be maintained for example: hand washing, cleaning regimes, one-way systems, ventilation, student bubbles, visitor routines, and social distancing. All staff and pupils must comply with these preventative measures as we continue to work together to keep our school community safe.

In the classroom:

The wearing of the masks in the classroom will no longer be a mandatory requirement. However, anyone that wishes to continue to wear a mask is encouraged to do so. Staff are still required to stay in the designated areas and reduce their circulation and may be wearing a mask.

Communal areas:

In all other areas outside of the classroom environment students are expected to wear masks when they cannot effectively socially distance. This means that in all indoor communal areas the expectation is that students should wear their masks. Outside in the fresh air students do not need to wear a mask, anyone wishing to do so is, of course, welcome.

Home testing:

As we know the easing of restrictions, by the Government, has been enabled by a range of measures including social distancing, use of PPE, handwashing and so on. Asymptomatic 'home testing' has also been used to help to break the chain of transmission of the virus, and to help safeguard the health of the students and staff. Home testing will therefore continue for the foreseeable future and we would welcome your ongoing support with this and with self-isolation, when required.

School bus and Public transport:

The rules and expectations on the school bus and public transport has not changed and so it remains mandatory for students to wear their masks.

This initial change is hopefully the first step in the easing of restrictions. It is however critical that other measures are maintained to avoid any reversals. In the last 24 hours you will be aware of the Government's anxiety about the new variant of Covid and the emerging possibility that, should a significant new outbreak happen, that local changes may be introduced. We are therefore keeping all measures under constant review and reviewing our risk assessments. If we need to change our expectations, we will of course communicate those changes and the rationale as early as possible.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your tremendous support to date with the measures we have had to implement over the last 12 months. If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Smith', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Smith
Head of School