



RH/SF

17 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Relaxation of COVID-19 rules on wearing of face coverings

Following the Prime Minister's confirmation on Monday that the next stage of easing of COVID-19 restrictions will go ahead from Monday 17th May I can confirm that students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classrooms.

Students will still need to wear a face covering whilst travelling to school on a bus or by taxi, when they are moving around the building and when they are working closely with a member of staff who is supporting them.

If students wish to continue wearing a face covering in lessons this is OK and can only help reduce the risk of infection. Staff will be continuing to wear face coverings when they can't be socially distanced from students and whilst moving around the building. All visitors must still wear a face covering inside the building.

Students should therefore still have a face covering with them in school or collect one from their Tutor when they arrive at school, unless they are exempt. We must continue to follow all other procedures designed to reduce the risk of infection from COVID-19. Thankfully cases have dropped significantly locally but it is worrying to read about outbreaks of the Indian variant in schools elsewhere in the UK. We must remain rigorous in our procedures in order to keep the easing of restrictions on track.

If your child develops symptoms they should stay at home regardless of the result of a lateral flow test. We expect home testing with lateral flow tests to continue throughout the summer term. More tests will be issued before half term and testing should continue twice weekly over the holiday. Additional test kits are available from reception if more are needed. A positive lateral flow test should be confirmed with a PCR test at a COVID Testing Centre.

I would like to commend all our students for the way they have accepted the wearing of face coverings in lessons of recent months which at times are uncomfortable and have made it harder for teachers to hear student responses in lessons.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Richard Harrison
Headteacher

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