

20 January 2022

Dear Parents,

Update on school Covid regulations

Schools received the following information from the DfE late yesterday afternoon.

From tomorrow, Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.

From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.

This decision comes in response to national infection data showing the prevalence of COVID-19 to be on a downward trajectory. Whilst there are some groups where cases are likely to continue rising, it is likely that the Omicron wave has now peaked nationally. There remains significant pressure on the NHS but hospital admissions have stabilised, and the number of patients in Intensive Care Units (ICU) remain low and are falling.

This means it is right we remove the most stringent restrictions around wearing face coverings from education, but the virus is still with us, and continuing with proportionate protective measures remains vital to protect education.

In our school, face coverings will remain a personal choice once we reach the 27th of January.

Since the beginning of the term, when the wearing of face coverings became a necessity in class as well as communal areas, our Covid infection rates amongst staff and children has dropped significantly. We have been able to keep all year groups in school.

We will monitor the situation carefully in the coming weeks and if we see a rise in cases then I will be asking you to support the school in reintroducing masks.

It is important that we protect our community so that children can continue to learn in school and my colleagues can be in school to teach our young people.

This is particularly important for Year 11 in this final run up to the summer exams.

All other hygiene measures will remain in place including the use of hand gel on arrival to lessons, tutor time and accessing the Bistro and the sanitising of equipment and desks at the end of the lesson.

Lateral flow tests will continue to be provided to all students. Tests should be taking place on Sunday evening/Monday morning and also midweek.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Kind regards,

Miss Hearle
Headteacher