



14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In response to the government announcements earlier this week, I am writing to inform you of changes to our Health and Safety systems which will take effect from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The wearing of face coverings by students and staff in classrooms during lessons will no longer be required. Students, staff and visitors to school will still be required to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas as this has been strongly advised where it is difficult to maintain social distance. We are, however, very happy for any member of our school community, staff or student, to continue to wear a face covering whilst in a classroom if they wish to do so.

The guidance does state that there may be times when we have to return to wearing face coverings:

*“The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission. The Local Action Committee structure (Bronze/Silver/Gold) should be used in such circumstances to re-introduce the use of face coverings. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on.”*

All of our other safety measures still apply. These include:

- Enhanced building cleaning
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitiser
- Year group pods for students
- Seating plans for lessons, dining and on school buses (where facemasks must continue to be worn)
- Ventilation in classrooms
- Year group entry and exit points to the school

We still need students to comply with these expectations and safety measures as we manage the relaxation of restrictions. We would also ask that all students continue to carry out their Lateral Flow Tests at home on a Wednesday evening and a Sunday evening.

Everyone in our school community has done a fantastic job so far in our response to the pandemic. It is really important that we continue to work together to ensure the safety of ourselves and others as we enter the next phase.

Thank you for your continued support on all of these matters.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs V Rahn**  
Head of School