

26th January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

As I wrote to parents/guardians last week, the Department for Education's updated guidance states that face coverings are no longer advised in secondary school classrooms and, from 27th January 2022, in communal areas in secondary schools. I know that many within the community have strong feelings about the wearing of face coverings in schools and I have received feedback from stakeholders arguing both sides of the debate.

Having carefully considered both the guidance and the case numbers within the school community, I have made the decision to remove the mandatory requirement for face coverings from Monday 31st January 2022. Students and staff should continue to wear face masks for the rest of this week whenever social distancing cannot be maintained within the school building.

From Monday 31st January 2022, students and staff will have the option to wear a face mask should they wish to do so, both in classrooms and in communal areas. We will continue to review these measures as part of our risk assessment procedures. Should there be an outbreak at the school, meaning that five students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period, I will seek advice from public health and may be advised to temporarily reintroduce face coverings.

Whilst face coverings will no longer be mandatory, all members of the school community should continue to practise good hand hygiene and undertake lateral flow testing twice a week, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Finally, I would like to thank students for following the rules around face coverings with impressive maturity over the past weeks, and thanks parents/guardians for the support.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher