



14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Face Coverings

Thank you for your patience while have been reviewing our risk assessments and safety mitigations following the Prime Minister's announcement this week regarding face coverings in schools after 17 May. That guidance can be read on [Page 10 of this document](#).

Following consultation and discussion with staff, academy councillors and trust colleagues, we have decided to remove the requirement for students to wear face coverings in class from Monday 17th May. However, we will still be asking staff and students to wear a face covering whilst they move around the college site in between lessons and while they congregate indoors in dining rooms. Students will still be required to wear face coverings on the college buses until further notice. We will keep this new model in place until the end of this half term, when we will review it again based on the evidence at that time.

While the current completion of LFT testing by staff and students is very encouraging, both in terms of uptake and negative results, we are very aware of the continuing risk presented by emerging variants (which are becoming prevalent in neighbouring counties) and feel that the majority of students and staff will feel safer with the retention of face coverings in busy areas and during movement between lessons.

Staff and students have been magnificent in wearing these face coverings since our return to lessons at the end of March. I hope you can all bear with us over these final few weeks to make sure that we continue the very safe progress we have made through the year.

In summary:

From Monday 17th May:

- Face coverings to be worn during movement in and around the college grounds from entry at the gates.
- Coverings can be removed in lessons.
- Coverings must also be worn in corridors and communal areas such as the dining rooms, Adelaide (Main) Hall and Needhams Hall.
- Coverings will not be required to be worn outside during breaks in open spaces.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warburton

Principal