

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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Headteacher: Ms. C. Costello

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Important Changes from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### Face Coverings

This week the Prime Minister announced that from Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> May secondary school students will no longer be expected to wear masks in school as part of the phasing out of lockdown measures.

This announcement has been confirmed in updated guidance issued by the Department for Education:

*Based on the current state of the pandemic and the positive progress being made, it is no longer necessary to recommend the additional precautionary face covering measures put in place from the 8 March. From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools.*

The full guidance can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/985138/10\\_May\\_Schools\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985138/10_May_Schools_Guidance.pdf)

Throughout the pandemic we have aligned our processes with government guidance and so I can confirm that **from Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> May we will not expect our students to wear face coverings in school.**

I know that for many of you this will come as good news but there will also be those members of our school community that may feel anxious at the removal of this requirement to wear face coverings. **If you or your child wish for them to continue wearing a face covering, they are free to continue doing so.**

As we take step 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown it is important that we all remain vigilant against any increase in COVID transmission amongst our community. Therefore, I continue to request that you **ensure your child is completing the twice weekly COVID LFD testing on a Wednesday and a Sunday please.** As mentioned in our last newsletter, the DfE is also requesting that the support of parents in uploading negative as well as positive results to the NHS database. We will be continuing to send out the home testing kits in support of this.

### **PE and Performing Arts Lessons**

The PE and performing arts departments are now able to fully use their changing facilities and so from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May there is no need for students to arrive to school in their PE kit on the day they have PE or trainers on the day they have performing arts.

This means that **from this Monday we expect all students to arrive for school in their full and correct uniform and bring their kit in a bag** as they did previously. Full and correct uniform means no child should be arriving on Monday in trainers or wearing sweatshirts/hoodies in place of a blazer.

We understand that from time to time issues do arise with uniform items; in these instances we ask that you contact your child's year manager or send your child into school with a letter from yourself please and not let your child communicate the issue to staff.

Thank you for your support with this; as the government's roadmap out of lockdown proceeds, we are revisiting our school operations with a view to increasing the variety of curriculum provision for your children after half term and hopefully starting the careful move to a school experience that is more familiar and certainly more welcome for our students. We will communicate with you more fully about this before half term.

The success of this depends on a confirmation and possibly a reminder of expected standards and the wearing of correct uniform is one of the most visible and important aspects of this.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend despite the rain.

Best wishes

**Clare Costello**  
**Headteacher**