



14th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you following the government's announcement earlier in the week about the easing of lockdown restrictions as we reach another key date. As you will be aware, from next Monday we are taking 'Step 3' in the roadmap out of lockdown. I expect this will be a welcome step for all, and to this end the national guidance for schools has been updated to reflect what can and should be done from **Monday 17th May 2021**.

The main changes are as follows:

- Students are no longer required to wear face covering in class or communal areas. They are still required to wear them on school transport.
- Staff are no longer required to wear face coverings in the classroom, but where they can't maintain social distancing in communal areas, then it is recommended they do wear a face covering or visor.
- School residential trips can now go ahead.

Equally importantly, these things will not be changing:

- Year group bubbles are to be maintained, as are all social distancing measures between year groups currently in operation.
- One-way systems and staggered starts will continue.
- Our enhanced COVID-19 cleaning regime will continue, as will the emphasis on good hand hygiene and respiratory practices.
- Twice weekly home testing will continue, and we will maintain contact tracing in order to remove potential transmission.
- Rooms will be still ventilated, at either end of the school day and/or break period(s).

Wakefield Local Authority's (LA) current recommendations varies to new national guidance, as they recommend persisting with face coverings in secondary settings. The LA explained that this is mainly because case rates in the general population are marginally higher than in other parts of the country. This is a local recommendation and it makes it clear that schools may still choose to follow the national guidance.

As a MAT, we have assessed the risks and decided to adopt the national guidance (as outlined in the bullet points above). This is due to our proven, secure systems of work and the daily monitoring of information available to us (national statistics and local testing rates). Rest assured, if our daily monitoring detected a consistent rise in the rates of transmission in any bubble, year group or school, we are ready to reintroduce face coverings for a period of time in consultation with local Public Health.

Hopefully this (the use of face coverings) is just the first of a number of measures that we have introduced over time that will be reviewed and reversed in due course.

Reminder of uniform expectations

I wrote to you recently about uniform expectations outlining how important our consistent approach to this matter is and would once again like to emphasise a few key points. We have noticed recently an increase in the number of nose piercings and particularly with the move away from face coverings, this will become apparent next week. Therefore, a reminder that the only permitted jewellery items are as follows:

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- One plain stud in each ear.
- One plain ring on each hand.

Any other items of jewellery are not permitted and will be confiscated and handed back to students at the end of the day.

Lastly, a reminder that hoodies are not permitted. We ask that students wear a jacket over their blazer instead. If they arrive wearing a hoodie they will be asked to remove it and should not put it on again before leaving site. With the weather improving this should help but it is worth noting this rule with purchases for next academic year in mind. Jackets are allowed, hoodies aren't.

Generally, the standard of uniform is very good and students wear it smartly, which is pleasing, and thank you once again for your support with this.

Regards,



Rob Marsh
Principal

*****We have recently launched the My Child at School app to communicate with parents. We require parents and carers to download the app as the majority of information we send is now via e-mail. As we move forward, text message will only be used for urgent messages and notifications. Please check your emails for your My Child at School user details. If you did not receive these details in April, please contact the academy.*****