

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 14 May 2021

Dear Parent

I am quite sure that you will have noted the updated guidance for everyone in England during the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday. I write to summarise the changes for schools.

Apart from confirming that UK school residential visits can resume after 17 May, there does not appear to be any change to the guidance for schools other than in relation to the wearing of face coverings. The new guidance on this is as follows:

- Facemasks are no longer recommended for students in classrooms.
- Facemasks are no longer recommended for staff in classrooms.
- Continue to recommend that face coverings are worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible eg when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Transparent face coverings can also be worn but are not as effective.

Everything else that we have in place such as cleaning, bubbles, avoiding large gatherings such as assemblies, the continuation of social distancing, etc remains as before.

My Headmaster's Letter (which is written a number of days in advance of publication) will have given you a clear idea of my views that a decision on masks by the government did not need to be rushed. I strongly believe that our low incidence of cases has been due, in no small part, to the measures we have had in place. I have, however, followed government guidance throughout the pandemic and will not change that stance.

Therefore, as of Monday 17 May, in line with the guidance, students will not be compelled to wear their face coverings in classroom, though they should continue to do so in corridors. There will be many who will wish to continue wearing a facemask, and indeed teachers who would prefer that to be the case, particularly if they have not been vaccinated. I therefore ask all members of our community to respect the wishes of each other so that we have a safe and comfortable environment for all.

Schools Week is one of the sources of information that we use in our sector and a recent article about the potential for localised reinstatement of the use of face coverings is [here](#) to read. I will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely

Philip Wayne