

12th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Updated guidance - Face Coverings

As you may be aware, earlier this week the Government announced changes to the Covid-19 restrictions to take effect from Monday 17th May, and subsequently the Department for Education have released further guidance. The area of guidance which has changed most significantly is around face coverings. Our approach engages with this guidance but offers flexibility to ensure that everyone continues to feel safe.

- From Monday 17th May, it will no longer be compulsory for students to wear face coverings in classrooms and when moving indoors in communal areas.
- However, from Monday 17th May, individual students may choose to wear a face covering within classrooms and in communal areas if they wish to do so and they feel safer.
- Importantly, students aged 11 and over must continue to wear a face covering on GCC school buses and public transport after 17th May.
- Staff will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas, and some may continue to wear them in classrooms where social distancing is not possible.
- **Please note:** The reintroduction of face coverings for secondary students and staff may be necessary at a later date for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.

It is important to note that the 17th May does not mark the end of Covid-19 and it is vital that the controls we have in place remain and are followed by students and staff. Whilst low, cases are climbing in the local area, and as we relax measures on masks, we need to remain vigilant and continue to work together to avoid any further disruption. As such, we are asking for your continued support to ensure that your children take regular lateral flow tests at home twice weekly, and that you report the result to us.

Yours sincerely



Richard Brand
Headteacher

[RJB/TW – updated guidance-face coverings-120521](#)

