

14 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to thank parents, carers and all our pupils for continuing to support the safety measures that have been in place in school to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in school settings. Pupils have been thoughtful, sensible and proactive when washing hands, using sanitiser, socially distancing from other year groups, using antibacterial wipes in classrooms and wearing face masks. These measures have no doubt helped greatly and been effective. We are fortunate not to have had to send any groups of pupils home since the return to school on 8 March.

You will be aware that on Monday the government announced a series of changes in relation to the coronavirus pandemic that will come into effect on Monday 17 May. Amongst those changes is guidance for schools that states the government no longer recommends the wearing of face coverings in classrooms, a measure that has been in place since 8 March.

Our first priority remains the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff. Therefore, we will continue to exercise caution at this time: in line with national guidance, pupils and staff will continue to be required to wear face coverings when moving around the college site because it is not possible to maintain social distancing easily (i.e. in the corridors and when moving between lessons or to year-group bubble zones for break and lunchtime); we also strongly recommend that face coverings continue to be worn in classrooms (other than for pupils exempt from wearing them) in order to protect pupils, their families and the staff. Please also note that face coverings remain compulsory on public transport including the school buses and we thank pupils for continuing to do so.

There are a number of reasons for a pragmatic approach. In particular, along with most pupils we have a significant number of staff – some of whom have underlying health conditions – who have not yet had their first vaccine; wearing face coverings continues to reduce the risks for them. Although the infection rates continue to decline, the coronavirus has not yet gone away and a cautious approach is sensible in our context.

We will review this position at half term and update you of any further changes. We certainly hope that by the end of the summer term all staff will have had at least one vaccine, meaning we will no longer need to recommend the use of face coverings at the college.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,



**Geraint Brown**  
Principal