

14 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 national 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:

- Pupils are no longer required to wear face covering in class or communal areas. They are still required to wear them on school transport.
- Please note: If students wish to continue to wear face-coverings they will be supported in doing so and the covering should be a plain design in line with existing school guidance.
- 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, the following measures 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 still be ventilated, at either end of the school day and/or break period(s).

Bradford Local Authority's (LA) current recommendation varies to national guidance as they recommend continuing with face coverings in secondary settings whilst students are in corridors and communal areas. They explain that this is mainly because case rates in the general population are marginally higher than in other parts of the country. However, this is a local recommendation which also makes clear that schools may still choose to follow the national guidance. **As a Multi Academy Trust, we have assessed the risks and decided to adopt the national guidance (as outlined in the bullet points above).** We have taken this decision 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.

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Hopefully 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.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor".

Tom Taylor
Acting Principal

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