



13th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Updated guidance on wearing of face coverings in School

As you may be aware, the Government has announced its updated guidance on the wearing of face coverings in schools.

I appreciate that there may be some anxiety from some students, parents/carers and staff about the changes that have been announced, just as some perhaps will be pleased. I also appreciate however, that other changes that have been announced for elsewhere in society mean that changes in schools were likely to be confirmed at this time.

These changes come into effect from Monday, 17th May and are as follows:

- Students will no longer be required to wear face coverings anywhere on the school site. They may choose to continue to wear them. That is a personal decision for the student.
- Staff will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classrooms. They may choose to continue to wear them. That is a personal decision for staff. You will be aware that our classrooms are relatively small and social distancing is therefore a real challenge. For example, most classrooms cannot ensure a 2m distance from the teacher's desk to the front row of students' desks.
- Face coverings should continue to be worn by staff and visitors when moving around corridors and anywhere else where social distancing is not possible. The same arrangements apply as previously regarding staff who are exempt.
- The reintroduction of face coverings for students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks of COVID-19. In this instance, we will liaise with Public Health and advise students, parents/carers and staff accordingly.

All other current health and safety and hygiene measures within the School will continue until further notice. These include:

- year groups arriving at and departing from specified gates at staggered times
- year groups being based in bubbles
- regular washing of hands with hand sanitiser. (Students need to bring their own hand sanitiser to school each day please)
- using the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach when coughing and sneezing. (Students need to bring a pack of tissues to school each day please)
- maximising ventilation in classrooms and other venues through keeping doors and windows open
- maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products, such as detergents
- carefully managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the school community by following Public Health guidance
- conducting assemblies remotely

The latest guidance also asks students and staff to continue to carry out Lateral Flow (LFD) tests at home, twice per week on Sunday evening/Monday morning and on Wednesday night/Thursday morning. Thank you for your support with this.

Children and young people aged 11 and over must still wear a face covering on public transport unless they are exempt.

Please do not hesitate to contact the School on contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk if you have any questions or concerns about these arrangements.

Thank you so much for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

P. Kelly
Headteacher