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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Update to National COVID Guidance and Face Coverings

As many of you will be aware, the Prime Minister made further announcements at the start of the week about the next phase in the lifting of national COVID restrictions.

The information and guidance issued to schools and academies has made it clear that there is very little change to the systems and controls that we have in place and we will continue to apply these.

However, one significant change is concerning face coverings. The Government guidance around face coverings in schools now states that the only instance where face coverings are recommended in a school setting is for adults and visitors in communal areas who cannot maintain social distancing.

Therefore, from Monday, students will no longer need to wear face coverings anywhere in the academy. The response from our students to wearing face coverings has been really positive, they have approached this responsibility with great maturity and I hope they continue to do so where they will need to wear face coverings in other aspects of their lives. The guidance does state that students who travel on dedicated school or public transport should continue to wear face coverings whilst traveling on these vehicles. **If your child uses any Academy or Norfolk County Council transport to get to or from the academy they will still need to wear a face covering when travelling on these buses.**

The guidance goes on to say that the use of face coverings may be reinstated as a temporary protective measure in response to particular localised outbreaks but this will be determined by Public Health England and we will follow their guidance should we need to.

With regards to our other COVID related protocols we are currently re-evaluating these and are planning to update and adapt these over the coming weeks as we can hopefully begin to return to more normal ways of working. Once we are in position to confirm these plans I will write again to update you.

Kind regards.

Mr Woodhouse
Principal

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