



Headteacher: Mr H Kutty BA Hons

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you safe, well and that 2022 has started off successfully for you and your families.

This is a brief message about face coverings and the message in the media, this afternoon, that face coverings are no longer required in classrooms or teaching spaces from tomorrow onward. Firstly can I be clear that I and other school leaders heard this information at the same time as you all, in the media, and a Department for Education Circular confirming the media reports was only received by me at 16.41. I therefore apologise for the late notification of what we will be doing at our school to ensure the continuity of education for all our young people.

Today, I attended a joint meeting with Headteachers and the Local Public Health Team who have confirmed the following:

- The number of cases of COVID 19 across the country are falling
- The number of cases of COVID-19 across the country in young people is not falling as fast as other age groups
- The number of cases is falling from an extremely high level both locally and nationally with a peak of cases reported one day last week across all education settings in Southampton
- Cases in our school have remained low although there has been a slight spike in the last week

Having risk assessed the current situation with our leadership team and our health and safety officer, it is our view that COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to the continuity of education for our young people currently. As such we will be continuing with face coverings in all areas of the school, apart from outdoors, up to and including Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of January. No-one has enjoyed wearing a face covering and we know that in certain instances it can hinder learning but it is clear that since we re-introduced face coverings cases have remained low, resulting in more students and staff in school with minimal disruption. I have been amazed throughout this pandemic at how our community have come together and supported each other by taking on this extra measures, particularly at times when they are not advised by the Government.

To be clear and transparent, it is my ambition to remove face coverings in their totality from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of January as long as cases continue to drop and I will not hesitate to remove them beforehand if the local and in school data suggest this is safe to do so.

So in summary - there is no change in face coverings - please ensure your young person brings one or two in tomorrow as per usual.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Warmest Regards,

Harry Kutty  
Headteacher



