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14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

I hope this letter finds you all well, safe and healthy.

It is starting to feel like we are gathering pace towards the light at the end of the tunnel. I'm sure all of us have someone we have not hugged or seen in some time and will celebrate that moment with happiness and a few tears.

As a school, we are also looking forward to some normality, which will start by following government guidelines and no longer insisting that students wear face coverings around the school. Of course, any student or member of staff who feels safer and more comfortable coming to work wearing a face covering will be encouraged to do so. We are strongly recommending that Y11 and Y13 consider continuing to wear face coverings whilst indoors. With the final assessments taking place over the next two weeks, they can ill afford to self-isolate during this crucial period.

For all other year groups, the relaxation of wearing face coverings will start from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Government guidelines are as follows:

***In line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools.***

***People aged 11 and over must wear a face covering when travelling on public transport. In accordance with advice from PHE, they must also wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school. People who are exempt do not need to wear a face covering.***

Other areas of the government's guidelines will still be in force. Hand sanitisation; the wiping of equipment; staying within bubbles; using the designated entrances and exits to school; the staggered start and finish to the school day; bringing water; wearing face coverings on buses; LFD testing and maintaining two metre distances, where possible, will all still be upheld and expected.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind students and families that we still have the final summer term to go. We have lost enough time this year and do not wish to spend any further time discussing our established expectations of punctuality, uniform, behaviour and attitude to learning but wish to have 100% focus on what learning needs to take place and what needs to be done over the summer break to prepare everyone for a purposeful and dynamic start in September. We cannot allow standards to slip in those areas: we have too much to do in terms of learning. Please speak to your child about the importance of coming to school prepared to learn and supporting their peers and their teachers to enable this to happen.



I'd like to share with you some technology developments. All teaching rooms are going to be equipped with high-tech learning walls/interactive whiteboards that will enable our staff to use state-of-the-art technology to enhance your child's learning experience. IT1, IT3 and MU1 are being refurbished with brand new computers, again to improve the learning experience for your child. There is now Wi-Fi access across the school to allow students to use their own devices as learning tools within lessons if, and only if, staff feel that is appropriate.

If you wish to discuss anything in this letter, please contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year in the first instance.

Take care and enjoy the easing of lockdown, safely.

Yours sincerely



**Loz Wilson**  
Headteacher

