



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3229 LMA

19 January 2022

Dear Parent,

Latest Updates Regarding Covid Measures

You may have seen that in the national press, the Prime Minister made an announcement related to the Plan B restrictions in place to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. He announced in parliament that face coverings were no longer be required in secondary schools. At the same time as the announcement, schools in the UK received an email and as such, we apologise for this notice and the time of notification.

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have tried to take a pragmatic approach to the precautions we take in school. At the moment there are a number of cases of coronavirus across the school; cover is challenging but still manageable. Sadly, this is not the case in some schools in West Lancashire and South Ribble. In many education settings, nurseries to colleges, case rates are rising and this is posing significant challenges.

Yesterday, we sent you a letter which outlined the measures that we would need to take in the event of a large outbreak, especially with a reduced number of staff. The plan stands but it's implementation would be a last resort.

With this in mind from Thursday 20 January:

1. Students and staff will be expected to wear a mask in communal areas unless there is a pre-agreed medical exemption
2. Students will be expected to wear a mask on dedicated school transport and public transport unless there is a medical exemption in place
3. We strongly encourage students to wear a mask in the classroom until the next point of review. This is reflecting upon the advice of the government to, 'wear coverings in enclosed or crowded spaces, when meeting strangers.' We think that this is a sensible measure to protect each other in health terms and for preserving in person education. However, this will now be down to individual choice as we have done before. This hopefully gives us some time for case rates to fall
4. Twice weekly testing continues as scheduled.

Thank you for your support as we navigate through this next phase of the pandemic. If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us on enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Headteacher