

17 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, I wrote to you on Friday about pupils no longer needing to wear face coverings in classrooms as from today. However, we contacted you again over the weekend as on Friday night, we received information from the Lancashire Public Health Director indicating that pupils and staff are to continue to wear face coverings at all times inside the school building including classrooms, corridors and communal areas. This will be reviewed on 21 June.

Just to help put this into a little more context for you now though, the information we received from the Lancashire Public Health Director was as follows:

"I am writing to you to advise that your students and staff should continue to wear face coverings despite restrictions relaxing nationally next week. As you will be aware, we are concerned locally about the spread across the region of the variant of global concern that was first detected in India.

This step would be a prudent one that will help reduce outbreaks in schools and colleges and help ensure you can stay open.

I am therefore recommending that you continue to follow the current guidance on face coverings until 21 June, the next landmark in the government's "roadmap". The guidance will be reviewed ahead of this date.

Continuing to use face coverings in schools and colleges along with maintaining hand washing, social distancing, fresh air and regular testing will help to control the spread of the variant.

I understand that this is a tough recommendation to make but taking this step will help reduce outbreaks. This is vital so we can build on the good work to keep levels of infection, hospital admissions and the numbers of people becoming seriously ill low.

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We want to do all we can to keep our schools and colleges open. The classroom is the best place for young people to learn. Wearing face coverings for just a few weeks longer until we control the situation is an effective way of helping us to do this."

Therefore, we will all continue to wear face coverings in school and review this once again on 21 June.

Thank you for your continued support with this.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Eastham
Headteacher