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**Headteacher**

Fay Beach

Dear Families,

On Monday night the Prime Minister announced that we will be moving to step 3 of the government's roadmap. On Tuesday the DfE released the new guidance for schools to reflect the decrease in the levels of restrictions. Below is a summary of the changes that will come into effect on Monday:

**Face coverings**

From Monday it will be **no longer recommended that learners and staff wear face coverings in classrooms**. Teachers are still expected to maintain 2 metre distance in the classroom. This is a recommendation so any learner or member of staff that still feels that they want to wear their face mask in the lesson is free to do so.

The guidance on face masks in social areas states that they are only recommended to be removed dependent on the current infection rates and spread of new variants in the local area. With the latest news regarding the Indian variant and its spread in the Greater Manchester area the decision has been taken that **face masks continue to be compulsory for both staff and learners in social times**. This will be reviewed weekly taking into account the latest information provided by the local authority and public health Tameside.

**Educational visits**

Educational day visits including domestic residential educational visits are able to resume in line with relevant COVID-secure guidelines and regulations and a full risk assessment in relation to all educational visits must be undertaken to ensure they can be undertaken safely. This means that over the next half term there may be some opportunity for learners to be involved in some enrichment. We are aware that plans are in place to run the Tameside athletics competition and the geography department are starting to plan the field work element of the GCSE course. We are also working with Year 11 learners and parents to run a version of the school prom after the 21<sup>st</sup> June when we are expecting the next step of the road map to be in acted.

At this stage although the government has created a traffic light system for international travel, schools are being advised not to do any international trips. We did have international trips books before lockdown where the trip and money is still being held by the companies with the expectation that these will take place next academic year.

**Transitional, taster and open days**

The advice now states that these activities can take place. We have arrangements in place for Year 10 learners to visit local colleges as well as Year 6 learners to attend the school for this induction days in early July.

**Extra-curricular activity**

The new guidance allows more flexibility of numbers and mixing of groups that means there will be a greater level of extra-curricular activities running in the final half term. More information on this will be provided in the coming weeks.



**Lateral Flow tests**

We are so pleased that rates of infection are lowering leading to restrictions being eased. It is essential as this happens that we all remain vigilant in following the restrictions still in place including the use of lateral flow tests every Sunday and Wednesday night.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,



Fay Beach

Headteacher