



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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14 May 2021

Good afternoon

I hope this letter finds you well? As you will be aware, the Prime Minister on Monday announced that pupils in years 7 to 13 would no longer have to wear face masks in school. Having had all the information from the DFE I wanted to let you know what the situation will be from Monday 17th May 2021.

From Monday our young people will NO LONGER have to wear face coverings in lessons or in communal areas such as corridors or halls etc. This is excellent news. However, where possible in classrooms etc. social distancing will be maintained. Some pupils may still choose to wear a face mask in school and if this is the case they will be allowed to do so.

However, our young people will have to wear face coverings in the following areas: On public transport and also on buses that bring them to and from school. So, if your child gets a bus into school they will have to wear their face covering on the bus.

Staff will have to continue to wear face coverings unless they are 1 metre away from the pupils. They will also have to wear them in communal areas as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that nose piercings and other facial piercings are not allowed in any of the schools for pupils in KS3 and 4.

All other covid secure measures such as bubbles for year groups, hand washing and enhanced cleaning etc will continue. The only change is the wearing of face coverings by pupils.

I have been asked by the DFE and local authority to remind you that home testing should still be carried out and if you have run out of kits please let us know.

We all need to be aware that should a local outbreak occur, especially of the Indian variant, then we would all have to go back to wearing face masks.

The PM also announced that overnight residentials could start again, but as a federation we have decided that there will be no overnight residentials during this academic term.

I think that as time goes on, more of the restrictions we have all been dealing with will be loosened, but at the moment this is not the case.

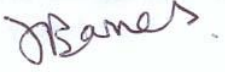
Within the 3 schools, we continue to try and provide the best education experience that we can. I am aware that at the moment all schools seem to be the teacher at the front of classes teaching to the class and then the pupils doing the work. At the moment the things that staff used to do just are not happening. That along with the fact that we can not offer our normal extra activities, means that school is not the place we all want it to be. However, saying that, we are planning to try and offer more of our "normal" school as soon as we can.

For those parents with children in year 8, the transition process is planned and will be our normal process. For parents of children in years 11 and 13, we are busy working on getting the assessments marked and moderated so that we can send the details to the exam boards.

As always, the staff are working as hard as they can to make sure that your children are provided with the best education that they can be and we continue to welcome your support with this.

I hope that everyone has a good weekend and I look forward to seeing the young people in school without their face coverings on Monday. Finally, a thank you to all our young people who have worn their face coverings without complaint (for most of the time!) and your willingness to do this has helped the schools run smoothly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JBarnes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher