



14th May 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Parent Updates and Reminders

As you will be aware, on the 10 May 2021 the Department for Education updated the Covid-19 guidance for schools which included an update that face coverings will no longer be recommended for secondary aged students in classrooms or communal areas in all schools. Whilst not reported widely in the media, the guidance does go on to state that, where social distancing is not possible, there may be a need for adults to wear face coverings or in a local context, they may need to be considered and introduced.

Earlier in the week we gave you an update from one of our partners, Runshaw, about the outbreak at the college and the detection of the B.1.617.2 variant (commonly known as the 'Indian Variant' related to its origin), which is noted as being more transmissible. Thank you for all of your efforts to get your household members and especially the students at Wellfield tested to support the public health programme for Runshaw and the community it serves.

Year 11 students have two weeks left in school and this involves a series of assessments in school which will contribute to their Teacher Assessed Grades. At this point and, given everything that they have experienced over the past 12 months, we want to support and reassure them that, as a school and community, we are doing everything that we can to make sure that they have an undisrupted final term.

We appreciate that wearing masks, particularly in lessons, is not ideal and our students have responded extremely well to this in the time it has been in place. All of us would like to see a time when this is no longer needed in school and society. Considering all of this and as a sensible precaution, we have agreed that in our school, those across the Trust and in line with some schools across West Lancashire and South Ribble, that **students and staff will continue to wear a face covering for the remainder of this term and on Monday 7th June**. This will apply to all classrooms and around school in communal areas. On the first day of the final half term (Monday 7.6.21), we will also all wear a face covering. At this point, we will review the local situation and provide an update for you about face coverings in school and this will be communicated to parents and students later on that day.

The Government's guidance goes on to say that, "Children and young people aged 11 and over **must still wear a face covering on public transport**. In accordance with advice from PHE, they **must also wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college**. This does not apply to children and young people who are exempt from wearing face coverings". Therefore, we must stress the expectation of wearing a face covering does extend beyond the school gate to the point when the young person alights the bus – this is crucial to prevent transmission in the community.

We hope that you will agree that we have, since the beginning of the pandemic, tried to make sensible and well considered decisions in the best interest of our community. This is one more decision made to protect health but also to support the students in Year 11 for whom the next two weeks mean so much, academically and otherwise. Thank you for your overwhelming support for everything that we have done

– one further push. As we move into the summer term we hope that the end is in sight for now and that we can begin to plan for a more ‘normal’ end to the school year.

Changes to current protocols

Whilst we are remaining extremely cautious, we have been working on some adaptations to our current protocols that will help to gradually move the school back to a sense of normality. Students have been informed that, **starting Monday 17th May**, these changes will include:

- Removal of lining up at certain times of the day. Lining up would only happen in each bubble area at the start of the day, end of break and end of lunch. Tutors and teachers will collect their tutor group/classes from bubble areas at these times.
- Students will move from lesson to lesson themselves at specified times (see below), with teaching staff presence on all corridors to ensure students walk in single file to lesson and do not mix with others. Students will move to lessons themselves between:
 - Tutor to period 1
 - Period 1 to period 2
 - Period 3 to period 4
- Teachers to escort their class to bubble areas at the end of periods 2, 4 and 5

We are sure that students, as always, will respond in a sensible manner to the changes introduced and will also benefit greatly from the increased learning time gained by limiting the amount of times they line up throughout the day.

Calendar updates

The lockdown period once again impacted on many of the events on our school calendar. Over recent weeks, we have been working to ensure that all important events are rescheduled as best as we possibly can, however, for your information, the most relevant, for now, in the coming weeks are:

- **Thursday 20th May**- Year 10 Parents’ Evening (details to be shared next week)
- **Wednesday 26th May**- PSHCE Day
- **Friday 28th May**- Year 11 Leavers’ Assembly
- **Monday 7th June**- Year 10 Practice Exams begin

Parents of students in Years 7-10 will also receive an engagement report home over the coming weeks to show the level of engagement your son/daughter is demonstrating within subject areas.

Wishing you a relaxing, safe and enjoyable weekend. Take care and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School