



14 May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As expected, the Prime Minister announced on Monday afternoon that pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools and colleges from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Prime Minister's statement can be read [here](#). All other protective measures remain in place and regular rapid home testing will continue to help find and isolate asymptomatic cases when they do occur.

The Government [guidance on face coverings in education](#), which can be found via this link, has been amended to reflect that from 17<sup>th</sup> May face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and colleges. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and colleges, the Government continues to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible.

Importantly, the guidance also says: *“The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission. The Local Action Committee structure will be used in such circumstances to re-introduce the use of face coverings. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on.”*

For clarity, at Wath Academy, here is an overview main points:

- From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 students are no longer required to wear face coverings in the classroom, in communal areas or outside. However, students are welcome to wear a face covering if they wish to do so, over the Summer term.
- From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 staff are no longer required to wear a face covering in the classroom. However, staff are welcome to wear a face covering if they wish to do so, over the summer term.
- Staff are required to wear a face covering in communal areas and outside, where social distancing can't be maintained.
- All other requirements of the risk assessment are still in place. An updated version of the risk assessment will be uploaded to the Academy website by the end of the week, in preparation for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

We will continue to monitor both local and national Government updates closely and will communicate promptly regarding any further changes. We expect the next major announcement to be prior to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

Yours sincerely

Liam Ransome  
Principal