



OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

Be the best we can be

20th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following yesterday's announcement from the Government and further to the information I sent yesterday which read:

'We are aware that the Prime Minister has made reference to changing the guidance relating to the use of face coverings in classrooms. At the time of writing we have received no communication from the DfE relating to this. It is our understanding that face coverings should continue to be worn in communal areas until 26/01/21, unless exempt. We continue to recommend that face-coverings are worn in classrooms and will review this once we receive updated guidance from the DfE. We are sorry for any confusion, but we simply have no more information to share with you, as nothing has been communicated to us.'

The following guidance has now been issued by the Department of Education:

Face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.

I am writing to inform you that our School and Trust's current position is that we will continue to recommend that face coverings are worn in all classes, and should be worn in all communal areas and on school transport. This is to protect our staff and students, and ensure we are working together to minimise transmission of the virus as much as we can.

In addition, you should be aware of an update to the guidance regarding procedures around the isolation period when testing positive for COVID-19. From Monday 17 January, if your child is self-isolating with COVID-19, you have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days. This is only if your child tests negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6, and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day: all test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace. If the result of either of their tests is positive, your child should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days, or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests, or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. A PCR test is no longer required. We will continue to set remote learning for students when they are isolating via Go4Schools.

Please contact the school if you are uncertain about any of the above, and thank you for your continued support in keeping our school as safe as it can be. I am very hopeful that we can return to normal school life very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Fell
Headteacher

