

14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to be able to write to you with an update on COVID-19 that is outlining how we will be able to relax some of the measures in school from Monday 17th May onwards. The implications for schools from this updated guidance are outlined below.

Face Coverings

Face coverings will no longer be required to be worn by students in classrooms and communal areas from Monday 17th May onwards. This means that students will not need to wear face coverings in their designated indoor social space at break and lunchtimes, as these are the communal areas in the school. Staff and visitors will still be required to wear face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. Regarding movement inside buildings between lessons we will still require students to wear a face covering, as year group bubbles cannot be kept apart at these times. While there is little risk in people passing each other in corridors, students in all of our buildings frequently wait outside classrooms at lesson changeovers and could, therefore, be in close proximity to students from other year groups at these times. You may recall that these were the arrangements in place at the start of the academic year in September and the layout of our buildings means that we need to continue with these arrangements while COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Face coverings do not need to be worn by sixth form students when moving between lessons in Penn as they do not mix with other year groups at lesson changeovers. The small number of sixth formers who have lessons in the main school rarely need to be in corridors but when they are then they are also required to wear a face covering.

Given that all students will be required to wear a face covering at some point during the school day, whether on bus transport or when inside a building, they should continue to bring a face covering to school every day.

Other points to note are:

- It remains the case that students are required to wear face coverings when travelling on the OS bus service or public bus services.
- Those students who are exempt from wearing face coverings will continue to be exempt.
- Students who wish to wear a face covering in lessons may continue to do so



Extra-curricular activities

The updated guidance allows schools to widen provision with regard to after school activities and clubs. We will now be allowing year group bubbles to mix in extra-curricular sports clubs when these are held outside. We will continue to maintain bubbles by using separate changing rooms for each year group and by keeping year groups apart when using the facilities. This will allow the range of our extra-curricular sports clubs to be extended and should allow more students to participate. The range of music clubs may also be widened to include wind or brass instruments and singing; this will require the use of one of our larger indoor spaces in order to maintain social distancing and allow sufficient airflow and ventilation. The list of extracurricular clubs for Term 6 will be updated to reflect these changes.

All other precautions will remain in place including: washing hands thoroughly, sanitising hands on entering classes, sanitising desks between lessons, no physical contact, staggered starts and ends to the day, maintaining year group bubbles through the school day and the one way systems.

Please continue to carry out lateral flow testing on a twice weekly basis with your children (Sunday and Thursday) and inform the school of the results of these.

We will be informing students of these changes in school at the start of next week but it would be helpful if you could explain these to your children before they come to school on Monday

Yours faithfully

Steven Mackay
Headteacher