



21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

In response to the Covid related Government announcements on Thursday evening regarding the easing of the Covid restrictions in England, now that I have received the official guidance from the DfE, I wanted to briefly provide an update for parents, carers and students on what the latest school guidance changes mean for our school community.

**New Covid Schools Guidance from 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Changes to Face Coverings**

On Wednesday evening the Prime Minister announced that all Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27 January. In education and childcare settings, this means:

- From Thursday 20th January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.
- From Thursday 27th January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.
- Local Directors of Public Health are able to recommend the use of face coverings in communal areas, across their area only, where DfE and public health experts judge the measure to be proportionate due to specific health concerns. This will be a temporary measure. Directors of public health will continue to advise individual settings experiencing outbreaks. Any local introduction of face coverings will be subject to routine review and removed at the earliest opportunity.

In line with the new government guidance and given that our case rates are currently steady (under 2% of the school population isolating with Covid at any one time) I can confirm we applied this change immediately on Thursday morning by informing students they were no longer required to wear their face coverings in their classrooms.

For now, face coverings are still required in communal areas indoors and whilst on dedicated school and public transport but from next Thursday (27th) government guidance is that face coverings will also no longer be required in communal areas. It is our intention to follow this guidance, but we will be maintaining the requirement to wear them until then and will confirm this next week.

As ever, students remain very welcome to wear a face covering (in or out of the classroom) and, as per general guidance, we would recommend their use in more crowded areas. It is therefore just as vital that students continue to carry at least one face covering at all times. Students have been largely excellent in taking responsibility for having and wearing face coverings; as ever they have risen to the expectation in support of the school community.

All our other existing control measures remain really important will remain in place until we have received further guidance from our local Public Health Protection Team to confirm they too can be relaxed.

Clearly, this remains a dynamic situation and, should case rates rise in a particular cohort or the school as a whole, we would liaise with the local Health Protection Team on the potential reintroduction of measures. Of course, we hope that this won't be necessary.

We will continue to keep you updated when anything else changes. Again, thank you for your cooperation and continued support of us and our brilliant young people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RBell". The letters are cursive and connected.

Rod Bell  
Headteacher  
The Corsham School