

Lowton Church of England High School

14 May 2021

Dear parents and carers

Weekly letter (week ending Friday 14 May 2021)

This week there is a single theme to my letter – face masks and coverings.

As part of the next phase of lifting of restrictions in light of the significant reduction in COVID-19 infections, the Prime Minister announced that from Monday 17 May the guidance relating to wearing of face masks in schools would change.

Outlined below is the guidance issued to staff and students and that we will be following from Monday. We will keep this under review as it is clear from the last couple of days that there are increasing concerns over new variants that may mean we need to revise our approach at short notice. I will, of course, communicate any further changes to you and students as necessary.

For students

From Monday 17 May, students will no longer be required to wear a mask or face covering in lessons or communal areas. Students will be allowed to wear a visor if they choose, but this will not be expected. Students will continue to face the front in classrooms.

All other existing COVID-safe routines for students will continue: handwashing, hand sanitising, ventilation in rooms, line-ups outside rooms, one-way systems, year group zones and staggered finish times.

For Staff

From Monday 17 May, staff will not be required to wear a face mask or face covering in their lesson. They can choose to if they prefer, particularly for staff yet to be vaccinated.

Teachers can, if they choose, continue to wear a face mask or visor when teaching, but it is not a requirement. Teachers will be allowed to circulate round their rooms to work with students and where working alongside students may choose to wear a mask or face visor. Teaching assistants working alongside students for sustained periods of a lesson will be advised to wear a mask or visor.

Adults engaging with other adults will be required to maintain social distancing of at least two metres in meetings (until at least the next Government review on 21 June). Where two metre social distancing is being maintained it will not be a requirement to wear a mask, but social distancing will be maintained and the room will be ventilated. Adults should refrain from physical contact, including handshaking.

All students and staff are requested to continue with twice-weekly testing and reporting the test outcomes to the NHS and school as currently.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher



Lowton
Church of England High School

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

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