



18<sup>th</sup> May 20201

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FACE MASKS**

I am sure that earlier this week you heard the announcement from the Prime Minister Boris Johnson that secondary aged school children no longer need to wear face coverings in school. The guidance schools have received from the Department of Education has also been very clear on this matter.

Whilst most primary children have not been wearing masks I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify with you our individual school expectations and responsibilities in regard to ongoing Covid restrictions which I hope you will find reassuring and supportive.

All our current mitigating actions will be maintained for example: adult mask wearing, hand washing, cleaning regimes, one-way systems, ventilation, student bubbles, visitor routines, and social distancing. All staff and pupils must comply with these prevention measures as we continue to work together to keep our school community safe.

#### In the classroom:

Staff are still required to stay in their designated areas and reduce their circulation and to wear a mask where they cannot maintain social distancing.

#### Communal areas:

In all other areas outside of the classroom environment staff and visitors are expected to wear masks when they cannot effectively socially distance.

We will continue with the requirement for all adults on the school site, including parents and cares, to wear masks unless they are exempt. For now this will still apply in outdoor areas.

#### Home testing and Isolation:

As we know the easing of restrictions, by the Government, has been enabled by a range of measures including social distancing, use of PPE, handwashing and so on. Asymptomatic testing 'home testing' has also being used to help to break the chains of transmission of the virus, and to help safeguard the health of the students and staff. Home testing for staff and regular visitors will therefore continue for the foreseeable future.

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In the last 24 hours you will be aware of the Government's anxiety about the new variant of Covid and the emerging possibility that should a significant new outbreak happen, that local changes may be introduced. We are therefore keeping all measures under constant review and reviewing our risk assessments. If we need to change our expectations, we will of course communicate those changes and the rationale as early as possible.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your tremendous support to date with the measures we have had to implement over the last 12 months. If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Elaine Thornhill  
Head of School