

19th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Like you, I have just heard the news regarding the easing of the Covid restrictions in England, although have yet to receive anything officially from the Department for Education.

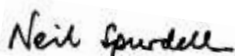
In line with the government guidance, I can confirm that, with effect from tomorrow, students will no longer be required to wear masks in their classrooms, although they can continue to do so if they wish.

Students will still be required to wear them in corridors and communal areas until the next phase of easing restrictions, which I understand to be next Thursday, 27th January. At this point, in line with the rest of the country, there will be no need for anybody to wear their mask around the site – although, again, they would be more than welcome to if they desired.

We have been maintaining our daily watch on school Covid numbers and, whilst they are not at the levels seen back in October/November time, they are nevertheless on the increase. Against that backdrop, we had already taken the decision to continue running assemblies virtually and just yesterday agreed that the Year 9 Options Evening scheduled for 10th February would also be a virtual event. Details for that will be issued nearer the time.

It is my hope that, as well as masks being removed, our transmission numbers will fall to a level that mean we can return to 'normal business' when we come back after the half term holiday. This I will confirm in the week leading up to the break. If there are other developments related to this latest announcement affecting schools, I will endeavour to alert parents via our School Comms messaging service.

Yours faithfully,



Neil Spurdell
Headteacher