



The King's School

Mill Hill Lane

Pontefract

West Yorkshire

WF8 4JF

T: 01977 601701

W: kings.patrust.org.uk

E: admin@kings.patrust.org.uk

THE KING'S SCHOOL

14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Headteacher COVID-19 Update

Face coverings

As we move to step three of the government roadmap, national guidance as of 17 May 2021, no longer recommends that students wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas in secondary schools. This is based on national case rates which now stand around 21 per 100,000, and on the reduction in hospital admissions and deaths resulting from the successful vaccine roll out.

Unfortunately, Wakefield, and our neighbouring local authorities, continue to have some of the highest case rates in the country. Our current case rate is 48 per 100,000 which is more than twice the national rate. A significant proportion of these cases are in young people of secondary school age.

Given the situation in Wakefield, Public Health England have recommended we retain the requirement for students to wear face coverings until rates are lower locally.

Therefore, in line with the DfE guidance, from Monday, 17 May 2021, **students will continue to be required to wear a face covering in classrooms and communal areas of school.** We are continuously reviewing this and will communicate with parents should this change.

All other precautions such as washing hands regularly, promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' and COVID-19 home testing will also continue to stay in place.

COVID-19 home testing

As a reminder, the government advice remains that students and school staff should continue to conduct lateral flow tests at home on a twice-weekly basis and to report test results via the government's test and trace service. As a school, we request that students perform the tests on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and in the event of a positive test, please also inform school. You must then book a PCR test as soon as possible and contact school with the result.

Symptoms of COVID-19

As a reminder, the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Should your child display any of these symptoms, they should stay at home, self-isolate and arrange a PCR test and inform school as soon as possible.

We greatly appreciate your continued support. As always, should you have any queries please contact school via the normal channels.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Pinto', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Pinto
Headteacher