

12th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Government update on coronavirus precautions – face coverings

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

From Monday 17th May the Government has announced that *some* of the National restrictions around the coronavirus are being lifted as the situation improves nationally.

I am writing today with an update on how this announcement will impact one of our existing Covid-19 precautions, face coverings. We are following the latest Government guidance which you can read by searching for '[gov.uk Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak.](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)'

All other Covid-19 precautions remain in place at the Academy, and it is important that everyone continues to follow these carefully.

What is changing?

The Government has announced that face coverings will no longer be required for students in classrooms or communal areas of the school, from **Monday 17th May**. All students must continue to wear a face covering until this date.

As an Academy we are taking a position that students may choose – they may continue to wear a face covering if they would like to or else stop wearing them.

Please note that:

- Young people aged 11 and over must still wear a face covering on public transport.
- Students who choose to continue to wear a face covering must do so responsibly, following guidance on how to safely put on and remove face coverings, and storing them correctly when not wearing them to ensure they continue to provide protection.
- The reintroduction of face coverings for secondary students and staff may be mandated for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.
- For staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible, it is recommended that they continue to wear a face covering. Like our position on face coverings for students, staff may choose to continue to wear a face covering and/or visor in all circumstances if that is their preference.

Principal - Claire Taylor

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What remains the same?

Our priority is the safety of our students, your family, and our staff. All other existing precautions against Covid-19 remain in place the Academy, and it is important that everyone continues to follow these carefully.

1. Individuals who have symptoms, or receive a positive result, or live with someone with symptoms, or are a close contact of someone who has Covid-19, are required to self-isolate, not attend school, and engage with [the NHS Test and Trace process](#) by contacting the Academy as soon as possible.
2. Students and staff who have consented are strongly encouraged to continue with lateral flow tests at home, twice a week. Should they receive a positive test, they are asked to self-isolate, and arrange a PCR test within two days to confirm the result.
3. We all must remember the importance of **Hands, Face, Space**.
4. We will continue to follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.
5. Everyone will continue to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
6. We will undertake enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
7. We will continue with our existing class/year group bubbles, minimising contact across the site, and continue with our staggered start times, and we will maintain social distancing wherever possible.
8. Teachers will continue to maintain at least 2m social distance at the front of classrooms, and if social distancing is not possible they will wear a face covering.
9. We will keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

It is vital for everyone's safety and wellbeing that all members of the school community continue to take the threat of the pandemic seriously and carefully follow all the precautions that we have in place.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the Academy.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Taylor
Principal, Oasis Academy Mayfield

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