

May 14th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid Matters – Updated Information from Mr Waller - Saturday 15th May

I write to inform you of a change in the advice regarding face coverings in school. Yesterday evening, after school had finished, we received the following message from the Director of Public Health in Lancashire which was sent to all schools:

"I am writing to you to advise that your students and staff should continue to wear face coverings despite restrictions relaxing nationally next week. As you will be aware, we are concerned locally about the spread across the region of the variant of global concern that was first detected in India. This step would be a prudent one that will help reduce outbreaks in schools and colleges, and help ensure you can stay open. I am therefore recommending that you continue to follow the current guidance on face coverings until 21 June, the next landmark in the government's "roadmap". The guidance will be reviewed ahead of this date."

While this is a recommendation I think it would be very foolhardy to go against local public health advice and so the requirement to wear a face covering in the school building, including classrooms, and when lining up, will continue. We will continue to review this as we get further advice and I will keep you updated. I am sure many of us will be disappointed that we are not able to dispense with face coverings, especially in the classroom, but we must put everyone's health and safety first.

I apologise that I am changing the school's advice that was only sent out on Friday afternoon but this late announcement yesterday evening was not expected.

Year 11

Year 11 are now coming to the final two weeks of assessment. I will send out information next week about the arrangements for Year 11 when assessments end. I am very impressed at the way the vast majority have approached this quite intense period of assessment because they want to give staff the best evidence possible of their ability. It is important to remember that Year 11 were warned at the beginning of this process that there was a 'zero tolerance' on behaviour as we want everyone to have the very best opportunity to revise and perform in the assessments and will not let a tiny minority spoil that. That policy of zero tolerance continues as we come towards the end of this assessment period.

Ofqual have this week produced a further information booklet for students and parents on the grading process this summer. Please find the booklet at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/986351/21-6780_Student_guide_to_awarding_in_summer_2021_-_accessible.pdf

Free School Meals

We have been informed that the Local Authority will be paying for vouchers for those children in receipt of free school meals during the half term break. These will be distributed in the normal way so you will receive a voucher in the same way as you have done previously.

School Musical: Mary Poppins

Thank you to all those students who have auditioned for the show which will take place in November. Call backs for Mary Poppins will be announced on Monday and take place on Wednesday in room 32 at 15.20. It will be fantastic to have opportunities such as these available to us again.

Congratulations

Congratulations to a very talented footballer, Holly in Year 9, who has been selected as Vice Captain of the Lancashire Under 14s Girls' County team.

Best wishes



Mr A Waller
Headteacher