

14th May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Government update on coronavirus precautions

The Government has announced that from Monday 17th they are lifting *some* of the restrictions around the coronavirus as the situation improves nationally. I am writing to you today with an update on how the announcement is impacting one of our existing Covid-19 precautions, face coverings.

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

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/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)'

What is changing?

The Government has announced that face coverings will no longer be required for students in classrooms from Monday 17th May. Bradford Council has sent further information after discussions with educational officers, school leaders and Public Health England which recommends that all students should continue to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas in school, but not in classrooms.

As an Academy we are taking a position that students may choose not to wear their face covering in the classroom but that they should wear it around the academy corridors and communal areas.

Please note that:

- Young people aged 11 and over must still wear a face covering on public transport or when travelling on dedicated transport to school.
- 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.

What remains the same?

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Our priority is the safety of our students, your family, and our staff. All other existing precautions against Covid-19 remain in place:

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

Whilst it is positive news that restrictions more generally are beginning to be lifted, it is vital 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. This is for everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the Academy.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siân Dover'.

Mrs Siân Dover

Principal, Oasis Academy Lister Park

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