



20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may have seen in the news today, the government has announced an update to the current guidance for schools. The key text is as follows:

*“From Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.”*

As a School, we are experiencing our highest levels of positive COVID cases since the pandemic began. Currently we have 38 students and 3 members of staff affected. Masks are an important and effective way to reduce transmission and help students who are vulnerable or have vulnerable people at home, feel safer in school. Therefore, we will continue to advise the use of face masks in lessons to offer everyone better protection, regardless of government guidance.

We will be continuing to enforce masks wearing in communal areas until 27<sup>th</sup> January. We will then update you on our current COVID levels and inform you of any changes to our COVID measures in school.

Having seen a significant increase in the numbers of COVID cases, we are concerned about the numbers continuing to increase and therefore do not wish to make too many changes to our current approach in school. We are committed to ensuring that teachers and students remain in school and avoid a return to online teaching with students learning from home. Please ensure that your child continues to come to school with a mask each day and we ask that you discuss this with your child to ensure that they understand their role within this and the potential impact of not complying with our request over masks could have.

We have also been asked to inform you of some information regarding COVID vaccinations by the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAI).

As part of the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust’s (GHC) ongoing plan the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12 -15 year olds is being transferred to the GHC School Aged Immunisation Service (SAI). The SAI planning team are currently looking at dates for students to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine. More information regarding this will follow once the details are confirmed.

Whilst the planning process is being undertaken the SAI would like us to inform Parents and Carers that there is still the opportunity for those who have not received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose to be vaccinated at walk-in sites. Please click on the link below for information on walk-in clinics. Please note that if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 they will need to **wait 12 weeks** before they can have a COVID-19 vaccine and this starts from the date of their positive PCR test.

[Vaccinations – Covid-19 Portal | NHS Gloucestershire CCG : Covid-19 Portal | NHS Gloucestershire CCG \(glos.nhs.uk\)](#)

Thank you for your on-going support.

Kind regards

Mr Albon

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