

19 January 2022

Dear parents and carers

You may have seen in the news today that the Prime Minister has made an unexpected announcement that the guidance on masks for students in schools will change from tomorrow.

Having taken advice regarding the local Covid-19 situation, it is clear that, although infection rates in London and other cities are beginning to fall, the infection rates in Malvern Hills are at their highest ever and may continue to rise for a little while longer. This is reflected in school where the number of confirmed cases amongst students and staff remains at a peak.

Our intention is, therefore, to ask students to remain masked during lessons in the short term. This will allow us time to assess the point at which it is safe to relax the school's position on face coverings. I will contact you again next week with an update.

I hope that you agree that a rushed decision is not in the best interests of our students. Having missed so much school during the two lockdowns, our Year 11 and Year 13 exam groups in particular (as well as their specialist teachers), need the best possible chance of maximising face-to-face lesson time with GCSE and A level exams fast approaching.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further clarification.

With my very best wishes

Lindsey Cooke