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BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning

14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

Update on Face Coverings (masks) in School.

Wigan Headteachers have received the following communication from Wigan's Assistant Director – Education.

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has confirmed progression to the next stage of the roadmap on 17 May including the lifting of the requirement for pupils to wear face coverings in secondary schools and colleges, and staff within the classroom.

Government guidance states that the reintroduction of face coverings for students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern, with advice from Directors of Public Health. We are seeing increasing spread in the North West of variants of concern. Several areas in the North West, particularly in Greater Manchester, have seen a recent increase in infections, including amongst young people. Evidence suggests that face coverings continue to be an effective way of reducing transmission. Within schools, they may reduce the extent of transmission and reduce the likelihood of bubbles needing to be asked to self-isolate at home, enabling you to maximise the amount of face to face teaching that can be offered this school year.

Support will be available from your public health and education teams if you promote the continued wearing of face coverings in school.

Many parents are aware that we have had a significant number of positive cases reported to school since the Easter break and I wish to mitigate risk as far as I am able to and keep as many children, and staff, in school as I can.

As a result, I wish to promote the **continued use of face coverings for all**, including students, as part of our system of controls to reduce potential COVID-19 transmission in school until the end of this half-term. Thus, **the current arrangements in school regarding the wearing of face coverings will remain in force with a review at half-term**. Students must also continue to wear face coverings on public transport and school buses.

Ensuring the wearing of face coverings is only one part of our wider system of controls. Other measures, including social distancing (where possible), handwashing, regular and symptomatic testing, contact tracing, self-isolation, good ventilation and enhanced cleaning, all remain in place.

I would like to thank you and your children for your ongoing support in making what is a very difficult situation more manageable.

Yours faithfully

Mrs H Phillips
Headteacher

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