



# Colton Hills Community School

**Confidence. Happiness. Courage. Success.**

Headteacher  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

## Covid – Face Covering Updates

As you may be aware the Prime Minister held a press conference on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May advising schools that pupils **will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools and colleges from Monday 17 May**. This was announced as part of the road map out of lockdown.

The decision has been made as a result of the latest data which shows infection rates continuing to decrease, deaths and hospitalisations at their lowest level since July, and the vaccine rollout continuing at pace. In addition, the transmission of the virus in schools continues to decrease in line with wider community transmission, with the latest statistics showing a significant drop in the number of teachers and staff testing positive. The decision has also taken into consideration the latest scientific evidence, medical advice and stakeholder feedback on the impacts of wearing face coverings in schools and colleges.

Therefore, from Monday, pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings in the classroom or communal areas at Colton Hills. This will improve interaction between teachers and students, ensuring the clearest possible communication to support learning. Pupils may, if they wish, continue to wear a mask whilst working independently, but the mask should be removed during discussion or when answering questions. They can also wear masks around school if this provides you and them with reassurance, but will not be asked to wear one if they do not wish to.

At Colton Hills we will continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff in situations outside of classrooms, when moving around corridors and in communal areas, where distancing is difficult. This is also in line with the guidance issued by the Prime Minister.

However, please be advised 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. We will inform you immediately if and when this happens.

It is worth remembering that this is part of a wider set of changes as part of the lockdown roadmap, and students continue to work in bubbles and have hand cleanliness emphasised at all points in the day. We will continue to ensure that this happens to maximise safety for all staff and students.

I shall keep you updated as things change or develop, and thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs A Stephens - headteacher