



26 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your family and friends. I am writing to you in advance of the announced changes to the use of face coverings in our corridors and communal areas from tomorrow:

'In England, secondary school pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas from 27 January 2022.'

This change is in addition to the very short-notice announcement that students can cease to use face coverings in classrooms which was released last week. As our new Spring term was about to commence this year, the Prime Minister announced the need to use face coverings in classrooms, corridors and communal areas on January 2nd 2022. On the day that our young people returned to school and followed this instruction; the seven-day moving average of confirmed deaths, within 28 days of contracting coronavirus, was approximately half of what it is today. More locally, many schools including Davison are seeing confirmed PCR cases rise week-on-week since the start of term. This is already leading to some schools having to adopt short-notice closure plans such as the one we unfortunately had to utilise in the last week of the Autumn term.

In view of the situation we find ourselves in locally and nationally; I feel that I have to request that students and staff continue to use face coverings, at all times, in corridors and communal areas irrespective of the changes announced nationally. The ongoing rise in confirmed cases, in many of our local schools, would lead me to believe that it is not the right time to relax safety protocols within our school. This decision will be reviewed at the end of this half-term in just over three weeks.

Please rest assured that any student, and staff member, is welcome to continue to adopt the use of face coverings within classrooms as an addition to the request for face coverings to be used, by everybody, in corridors and communal areas. My staff and I would really appreciate it if you could discuss this with your child and ask them to support this position for their own increased safety as well as that of other school members and wider community stakeholders.

I do accept that opinions are somewhat polarised in terms of whether restrictions should/should not be relaxed further. This is evident in the communications I have received. I hope that all who read this letter can understand that I am doing what I feel to be best for our school community and the wider locality. Your understanding and support are really appreciated as we all continue to navigate our way through these very difficult times.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Keating
Headteacher