



## HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PDR/JDN

14 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers & Students,

I do hope this letter finds you well and as a family you are starting to see a level of normality returning over the next few months. It is with this issue in mind that I am writing to you today.

I'm sure you will be aware that the government have announced it will no longer be necessary for students and staff to wear a face covering in most situations in schools from Monday 17 May. This announcement comes in the context of falling numbers of infections on a national scale, largely due to the vaccination program. However, whilst infection numbers across much of the UK have significantly decreased, in many areas of the West Yorkshire conurbation, numbers are still quite high and this is exemplified in Kirklees, which has approximately 4 times the national average of infections and so ranks 6th of all UK regions. Indeed, in the last few weeks we have seen infections in school, mirroring the picture in the local area.

Having taken advice from a range of national and local organisations and policy makers, I am informed that given the infection rate in our locality, I am authorised to make the decision to continue to wear face coverings. Indeed, an urgent meeting was called last night for Kirklees secondary Headteachers where the Director of Public Health strongly advised schools to continue to wear face coverings until the infection rate drops significantly. Therefore, we will continue with our existing protocols and procedures initially up to the half-term holiday, when we will review the situation and communicate with you again in readiness for the return to school on 7 June. This decision has been taken to protect students and staff and also minimise the risk of infections being taken back in to households. The worst-case scenario would be for there to be a spike in infections, which could result in students having to work from home again.

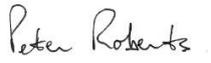
As I'm sure you will agree, with your high level of support, collectively we have managed the impact on school very well during the last year and we wouldn't want this to slip at this stage having got so far. Therefore, unless medically exempt, please ensure that your son/daughter continues to wear a face covering in school initially until the end of this half-term. Should anything change during this period, clearly we will update you as a matter of urgency.

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Headteacher: Mr P Roberts

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Thank you once again for your support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Peter Roberts

Headteacher

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