



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PDR/SMF

20 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

You may have seen on the news the government have decided that face coverings will no longer be mandatory in classrooms in secondary schools in England. As you know, we have worn face coverings for much of the pandemic and indeed for extended periods of time when the government had not mandated it. The effect of this cautious and prudent approach has been that we have seen much lower rates of infection in both students and staff compared to local and national averages.

From what we understand, infection rates have slowed in the South of England but have not yet in many parts of the North. Indeed, currently we are experiencing some of the highest rates of infection in school compared to any time of the pandemic and there is no sign of levelling off.

To remove face coverings now in our school setting would be foolhardy and reckless and therefore, we will continue to wear face coverings in school, unless somebody is medically exempt. Clearly, nobody would choose to wear a face covering, but until we see evidence in school that it is safe to remove them, we will continue to wear them. At times since Christmas, we have experienced levels of staff and student absence, which was pushing us to the margin of having to implement remote teaching, which is not a route any of us would want.

We will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis and as soon as we are in a position to make changes to our protocols we will inform you immediately.

Thank you as ever for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Peter Roberts

Headteacher