



Bexley Grammar School
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19 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just five days since my previous letter regarding changes to Covid guidance, I write to confirm what you will have seen in the media regarding face coverings. The official DfE guidance arrived late this afternoon.

Students will no longer be asked to wear face coverings in classrooms from tomorrow (Thursday) but we are asking that everyone continues to wear face coverings in communal spaces in our buildings, until next week. If Covid cases in the school are low enough by next Thursday, we may be able to remove this restriction too.

DfE: 19 January – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update to all education and childcare settings and providers

From tomorrow, Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.

From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.

The following guidance has not changed:

- People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 may reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.
- If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- Students who are identified as contacts of someone with COVID-19 should take daily rapid lateral flow tests for 7 days but do not need to self-isolate as long as they test negative each day and do not have any symptoms. Students can collect additional kits from reception if required.

Best wishes,

cc. Sixth form students