

The Buckingham School - Update on face masks from Friday 21st January 2022 – ParentMail Email sent 20/01/22

Dear Colleagues, Parents, Carers and Students,

The government announced new guidance late yesterday that face coverings are no longer advised in classrooms.

We have kept the rule in place today, whilst we reviewed the evidence to hand.

We have considered the rate of Covid-19 in school amongst staff and students, and the community:

- Reported cases amongst students have been steady. They have increased marginally, but remain below 4%
- Reported cases amongst staff have remained steady – these remain at 5 or fewer
- Cases in Aylesbury Vale have dropped sharply from the recent peak

Whilst I am strongly suspicious of the timing of the announcement, I can confirm that:

- **Staff and students will not be required to wear masks in lessons, as of tomorrow (Friday 21st January)**
- **Staff and students are welcome to wear masks in lessons, if they wish**
- **All of our other procedures, including masks in communal areas, remain in place – we will be checking for masks at the school gates, as usual**

We are not making any decision about the further changes announced for next week, until nearer the time. At the heart of our decision-making is the desire to keep the school fully open for all learners, especially those with examinations in a few months. We have been strongly reminded about the importance of schooling in the last two years, because we have seen the impact that not coming to school has had on many students.

I trust that you will agree that we have shown throughout the pandemic that our decisions are made upon the best interests of the community, and not a desire to be popular or avoid complaints.

With best wishes

Mr Andrew McGinnes
Headteacher

