

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Further to the Prime Minister's briefing on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, the DfE has updated its guidance to schools, outlining changes from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

*"From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms."*

*"In all schools, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas)."*

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, pupils at St Thomas More will no longer be required to wear face coverings, but all other covid-secure measures remain:

- Twice weekly LFT testing at home (evidenced in planners when the test has been conducted)
- Hygiene measures, including the washing of hands and hand sanitation
- Year group bubbles and 'loose bubbles' at break and lunch for 2 year groups
- Extensive cleaning regime around school and after each lesson
- Ventilated classrooms
- Awareness of expectations and responsibility of one's own actions

It is important to note, "The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern."

Overall, this is a significant change for our pupils, and I can imagine that some children and parents/carers will be concerned about their health and well-being. We can only trust in the science that informs the Government, along with a vaccination programme and low levels of local transmission to bring a sense of security and reassurance. Nonetheless, some children may still be concerned, so please take the time to talk with your child to reassure them about this change of routine.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our school and our community safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Redfern  
Headteacher