

28 November 2021



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer

New Guidance on Face Coverings

As you will be aware, on Saturday 27 November the Prime Minister held a press conference where he announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures are to be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while the Government gathers more information.

Following this announcement, this afternoon schools have received further guidance from the Department for Education that **face coverings should once again be worn in communal areas in secondary schools by staff, visitors, and students, unless they are exempt**. Students should wear face coverings on public transport and on any dedicated school transport, including travel on the school minibuses.

The Department for Education judged it important to share this information with schools today, rather than wait until Monday. Consequently, I am writing to all parents and carers to confirm that we will ask all our young people, staff, and any visitors to support this guidance from tomorrow (Monday 29 November) wherever possible, unless exempt. As it is a Sunday night, I do realise that all families may not have access to a face covering. The expectation is that they bring their own from Tuesday, unless exempt. Please contact your child's Pastoral Manager as soon as possible if your child is exempt.

Please discuss this new guidance with your child. In addition to sharing this change with students, we will also remind them of the importance of sanitising hands each time they remove their face covering and that face coverings should be stored in a plastic bag when not being worn and disposed of correctly.

Last year, when face coverings were required in schools our students responded quickly and maturely and I have no doubt that they will do so again.

Lateral Flow Testing

In addition to a return to face coverings, can I also take the opportunity to once again encourage all young people to continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. We have recently sent tests home and will continue to do so however, should your child have missed the latest distribution or should they need further tests, they will be able to collect a supply from the canopy at the end of the school day.

Can I thank you for your support once again as the information we all receive continues to evolve. We have come a long way and we have seen the benefit of this in school this term; nevertheless, I am sure that we all have one eye on Christmas now and therefore are keen to do all we can to ensure we can enjoy this to the full.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Wilson'.

Scott Wilson
Headteacher

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

