

14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

You will be aware that the Government has now announced the changes to restrictions that are being introduced as part of Stage 2 of the Covid roadmap. The DfE have also published documentation relating to the wearing of face masks in schools; [Face coverings in education](#) (DfE May 2021). While the announcement and subsequent publicity regarding face masks relates to the removal of the requirement for secondary age pupils to wear masks in classrooms and corridors, it does make clear that schools are still required to follow the guidance of their local Public Health England body.

Page 4 of the guidance states *'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. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission. The Local Action Committee structure (Bronze/Silver/Gold) should be used in such circumstances to re-introduce the use of face coverings. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on.'*

Bradford Local Authority and their Public Health Team emailed all schools on Thursday 13 May 2021 regarding face coverings and have now issued the following statement:

*'Following discussion of the new [DfE guidance](#) within the council, education officers, school leaders and PHE, we recommend that: As a precautionary measure pupils in secondary schools, special schools and FE colleges **continue to wear face coverings in corridors & communal areas in schools (but not in classrooms)**. Good classroom ventilation will be particularly important to further reduce COVID risk.'*

Therefore, following this guidance issued to us by the Public Health Team in Bradford; from Monday 17 May 2021, **secondary aged pupils at Appleton Academy will no longer be required to wear masks in classrooms and the dinner hall. However, they will still need to wear a mask in the corridors.** Pupils will be asked to put their mask on as they enter the building and make their way to lessons and as they leave the classroom to move around school. While the recommendation from Bradford Council is for this policy to be in place for the remainder of the school year, we will keep this under review.

I know we are all looking forward to Covid measures coming to an end. However, we still need to be vigilant as cases in Bradford remain high and the new variants are more prevalent. Please help to support the school and wider community by continuing with twice weekly testing for your children, self-isolating and arranging a PCR test if your child or family members have symptoms and continuing to socially distance when dropping off and collecting children from school.

Yours faithfully



Ms H Jones  
Executive Headteacher