

12th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Staff,

No doubt on Monday 10th May you will have seen the update from the Prime Minister concerning the roadmap out of pandemic restrictions and the announcement that students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools from Monday 17th May.

However, you will also be aware that on 30th April 2021 all families within the wider Selby Area received communication from the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire with regard to the continued high rates of Covid-19 within our locality. You can read a copy of that letter [HERE](#).

It has been confirmed today, 12th May, by the North Yorkshire Director of Public Health that whilst the rate is slowing in Selby, it remains one of the highest in the country and all control measures must remain in place in order to protect against risk.

For this reason, the Public Health advice for secondary schools in the wider Selby Area is to continue the use of face coverings for staff and students in classrooms and/or communal areas until the May half term break (Friday 28th May 2021). The recommendation is also that face coverings are worn by staff and visitors in situations where social distancing is not possible.

With asymptomatic testing operational and well established, the roll out of vaccines and everyone's continued efforts, we are all optimistic about where we are and where we are heading. It is, however, important to keep vigilant and remember **Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air**.

For the STAR Multi-Academy Trust, what this means is that our most recent [Face Coverings Policy](#) will remain fully in place until at least half-term and further Public Health advice is received. This includes all adults visiting and dropping off on primary school sites unless otherwise so informed by local school staff. I am sure that every family will want to continue to work in partnership and optimism on this vital policy over the coming weeks. We know it is not ideal, but it is part of our important protective measures which have reduced incidence rates across the Trust to date.

Whilst writing out, please could I also draw your attention to the most recent North Yorkshire Health Guidance poster [HERE](#). If any member of your household is showing any of the three symptoms of Coronavirus, there is a requirement for the whole household to self-isolate pending confirmatory testing. That test should be via PCR and not use of Lateral Flow which are only for asymptomatic usage.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Yapp

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