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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Government Roadmap from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to moving into the next stage of the roadmap. We have now been given guidance that students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools and colleges from 17th May. In a press conference on Monday, the Prime Minister announced that the country's roadmap out of lockdown is on track and Step 3 will go ahead as planned on 17th May. The latest data shows infection rates continuing to decrease, deaths and hospitalisations at their lowest level since July, and the vaccine rollout continuing at pace. In line with this data, students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in the classroom or communal areas in the academy, however, please feel free to continue wearing them if you wish. DfES guidance for removal is:

“This will improve interaction between teachers and students, ensuring the clearest possible communication to support learning. The recommendation to wear face coverings in classrooms was introduced as a precautionary, temporary measure at a time where rates of coronavirus were high in the community, the school and college regular testing regime was about to begin, and the vaccine programme was in its early stages. All other protective measures such as ventilation and social distancing where possible will remain in place and regular rapid testing will continue to help find and isolate asymptomatic cases when they do occur. Staff are not required to wear face coverings in the classroom but should continue to wear them in communal areas such as the staff room, where social distancing may not be possible.”

At home please keep regularly testing, this method quickly picked up one positive case in the Sixth Form and this meant they could isolate very quickly, ensuring no further cases. In terms of bubbles for year groups, the guidance above states to use “All other protective measures” to keep students and staff safe until data is reviewed before Step 4 in the road map. So next term we will be keeping the year group bubbles, however, as we will no longer have Year 11 and Year 13 onsite we may be able to access some of their areas.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Walters