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Dear Parent or Carer

We are writing to you with some further information on our approach to face coverings in school. We contacted you at very short notice, following the strong recommendation from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the local Public Health team that face coverings should be worn in secondary schools (when indoors and not in classrooms or eating and drinking). We are enormously grateful to parents and students who have adapted to this change at short notice.

We had hoped we would not have to require face coverings, but (while we recognise that there are a wide range of deeply held views on the issue of face coverings) it would be irresponsible of us to have ignored a strong recommendation from public health experts. We have looked at the most recent local infection rates and it is very clear that the number of cases has risen quite quickly in the East Riding. In the last seven days, there have been 32 positive cases in the county (compared to just 5 at the same time last month). Given the difficulties in the test and trace system and a significant increase in families reporting people with symptoms, our ability to keep schools open is dependent on how successfully we can mitigate the spread of infection within school. The changed approach to face coverings is just one part of our efforts to do just that.

Today, we have explained our routines to students who have responded brilliantly at short notice. Excluding public transport, students should only be required to wear a face covering for about 15 minutes in any one day.

In short, students should wear face coverings (plain as per behaviour policy) when:

- Entering any building until seated in classrooms
- Leaving the classroom onto corridors until leaving the building
- Entering canteens until sat down ready to eat (and again when leaving until they are outside)

Face coverings are NOT expected in outside areas or in classrooms unless a student chooses to.

If your son/daughter is exempt from wearing a mask, then parents/carers can let us know via a brief note in the planner or by providing a letter; we will then provide a discrete pass for them to show, should a member of staff who does not know them ask.

Yours faithfully

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal



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