

19 January 2022



**Vyners School**  
Striving for Excellence

Dear Parents and Carers

**Subject      Face Coverings in the Classroom**

As you may be aware from media reports, the Prime Minister has announced that the Government is removing its recommendation for secondary school aged children to wear face coverings in classrooms as from tomorrow (Thursday 20th January). The recommendation for face coverings in communal areas remains in place but will be 'withdrawn shortly'.

I do feel that I should make the point that these types of announcements being made less than 24 hours before expected implementation are exasperating for school leaders. More importantly, I am also able to confirm that cases of Covid remain at reasonably high levels amongst the staff and student body and, given that this is the case, we have decided to **keep face coverings in place in classrooms through to the end of the week**. This will also allow us the time to update our strategy and communicate effectively with all stakeholders including students and staff. This should help to avoid any confusion. I will update all parents and carers about our next steps in my update on Friday.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support throughout what remains a challenging period. Many of you will be aware that covid continues to impact us as a whole school community, and that we have a number of staff and students absent for this reason at this very moment. It is important that students continue to be cautious, particularly during this winter period. Let's hope though that there is cause for genuine optimism and that we are making positive steps towards the end of the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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