



# HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

13 May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

## Face coverings in educational settings

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. Eid Mubarak to those of you celebrating today!

The government have released new guidance on the use of face coverings in educational settings. The key points are as follows:

*From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms.*

This news is welcome and we look forward to relaxing the rules in line with these guidelines. However, we are also concerned that a 'cliff edge' approach this Monday, moving from face coverings everywhere to no face coverings at all, could create worry for vulnerable students, families and staff, including those yet to be vaccinated.

We therefore plan to:

- 1) Maintain our current policy on face coverings for the two weeks up to the half term break. For this period, **staff and students' default setting should be to wear a face covering.**
- 2) Adopt the new guidelines from Monday June 7 onwards – face coverings will no longer be required

This will give all members of the school community time to prepare themselves for the new policy.

**We therefore ask that you continue to ensure that your child brings two face coverings to school. They will be expected to wear a face covering at all times.**

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The exceptions to this are:

- When eating or drinking
- When playing sport
- If they are exempt

We know that face coverings pose issues for some students and we will continue to issue exemption cards when we have written notification from parents. Please contact your child's Head of Year for more detail.

We recognise that face coverings are a significant barrier to effective teaching and learning but believe this slightly more staggered approach will be a reassurance to many.

Please do let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sadler', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Matthew Sadler  
Head