

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Removal of the requirement for students to wear face coverings from Monday 17 May 2021.

Following the Prime Minister's briefing on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, I can confirm that face coverings will no longer be required for students in school as from Monday 17th May. Whilst this is very welcome news for us all, I must make it clear that all other safety measures must remain strictly in place. This means that year group 'bubbles', strict hand hygiene, well ventilated classrooms, one way systems around internal areas of the site, enhanced cleaning routines and staggered break and lunchtimes will continue to be operational.

Students may still opt to wear face coverings if they wish. This will be reviewed in line with the next stage of the government's roadmap. The removal of face coverings has been made possible in part due to twice weekly lateral flow device (LFD) testing by every adult and every student in the school; this has undoubtedly helped to keep our school safe and reduce the number of positive contacts. Your continuation of this testing will help to keep the school community as safe as possible.

Adults in the school will continue to model safe practices including the wearing of face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained. This is because there remains a significant proportion of the workforce under the age of 40 who will not have been vaccinated. All adults in the school will also continue with the practice of testing at home twice weekly. We hope that this twice a week testing regime both for staff and students will help to further ease any anxiety for all of our school community.

May I thank you for your continued support and wish you a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely

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