



21 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As communicated via social media on Wednesday, the government has made commitments to end Plan B restrictions from Thursday 27 January. As such, there will be no requirements for students to wear face coverings in any settings. As always students are welcome to continue to wear them if they so wish. As leaders we also strongly believe that this is a signal from the government that the remainder of the academic year is likely to be 'more normal' than the previous two and that things such as external examinations, school proms and school trips are likely to proceed as planned.

As Miss Heard mentioned in her correspondence last week, testing is likely to remain as one of the only key measures to prevent further spread of the virus and so we urge students to continue with the twice weekly testing and report their results as a matter of course.

Throughout the pandemic we have always tried to make decisions with the students' best interests at heart and as we see ourselves slowly coming out of the other side, this will not change. Back in the summer term we introduced our Step-Up initiative which we promised would ensure that no student was 'left behind' or left with any gaps in their academic education. The early indications from assessment data suggest this was the right decision and our students are thriving back in the classroom.

We have decided that we also want to ensure that students make up for any lost social and creative opportunities that the various lockdowns and restrictions may have inhibited. Therefore, we have decided to use some of the government's COVID funding to give students a non-educational experience which will hopefully help them see that the world is returning to some form of normal and that once again there are endless opportunities out there. On Wednesday 9 February, as part of our planned immersion day, each year group will be going offsite to visit a range of establishments which will immerse students in an activity designed purely to build on their social and/or cultural capital.

Next week you will receive a specific letter which details the trip your child is going on. As a school we have spent a lot of time securing these activities and given that all of the trips are fully funded we expect that attendance will be compulsory.

For further clarification around our rationale for this event: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13HAd8U5SA5mIGL4lGBtkxZD1Z-OTDZN-/view?usp=sharing>

Can we please ask that, as far as possible, you avoid using Kirkley Drive to drop off and collect your child from school on this day as we will have a large number of coaches using the approach to the site.

Once you have received correspondence from your child's trip leader next week, feel free to get in touch with any questions. We sincerely hope you will see that we have tried really hard to make sure that students who may not have had many opportunities recently to get out of the local area and interact with people on a social level get a great chance to do just that.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal

Mr M Jones
Senior Vice Principal