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Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As many of you will be aware, late on Wednesday afternoon the Government suddenly issued a notice of withdrawal of the DfE's most recent guidance relating to COVID prevention measures in schools. This means that there is no longer any national guidance in place noting that students should wear face coverings in classrooms in secondary schools. Last night, the Secretary of State for Education went further and indicated that he could prevent individual schools from keeping face mask requirements for children in classrooms. In light of all of this, the school has decided to revert, with immediate effect, to the position we informed you of in late November, when we introduced a [levelled response to COVID cases](#). This approach allows for the use of face coverings in classrooms by certain specified groups, in the event of a localised 'outbreak', but does not suggest that students in general should wear face coverings during lessons. Students can – of course – continue to wear face coverings in class if they want to, but we will no longer ask them to do so. The national guidance that students should wear face coverings in communal areas remains in place for now, but will be removed on Thursday 27th. We will await the guidance from Suffolk CC, which we believe will come out on Monday, before deciding what to do in response to that change.

On a related matter, I feel it is necessary, following a couple of concerning incidents recently, to remind you all not to send your children to school if they have symptoms or are waiting for a test result (or if their most recent test result was inconclusive).

If you have any questions about any of the above information, please contact me.

Kind Regards

Dr A Sievewright

Headteacher
Farlingaye High School