



Lealands
High School
A Specialist Sports College
Aspire Believe Achieve

Lealands High School
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Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware that from Monday 17th May, the Government has declared that secondary age students are no longer required to wear face coverings in school. However, they recognise that different areas may need to adopt different approaches at different times.

As you know, everyone at Lealands has worked really hard to provide the best education for our students over the past year or so and kept everyone as safe as possible when in school. Our students have been fantastic and put up with so much. We have found, as you would expect, the use of face coverings for students in lessons to be a barrier to learning, but one that we have willingly accepted as a safety precaution.

Although the number of positive Covid cases in Luton is relatively low compared to previous very high figures and appears to have been falling over the past 7 days, there are new National concerns about the variant that originated in India now spreading amongst the population.

In line with Public Health and Government advice, we believe that face coverings are no longer necessary in classrooms, where students will continue to sit in rows facing the front for the most part. However, we encourage students who feel more comfortable and safe to continue wearing their face covering in lessons.

However, we do believe it sensible to take a stepped approach and, therefore, from Monday 17th May, students attending Lealands will still be **required to have a face covering to wear to enter the building and move around corridors** (current exceptions will continue to apply). We are aware that different schools locally are taking differing approaches and it is difficult at this stage to know exactly what the right approach is.

We will keep this approach under review and if cases continue to reduce in Luton and the recent variant of concern does not become a greater issue for us, we will look to remove the wider requirement to wear face coverings in corridors soon.

I am aware this communication is coming out to you quite close to Monday, but you will understand we have wanted to keep an eye on what is happening with the development of the virus before making a final decision.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Burridge
Headteacher

