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Dear Parents and Carers

Re: COVID-19 Update on Face Masks

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday that all Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27 January, the new guidance states:

- From today 20 January, face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors in classrooms.
- From 27 January, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas.
- Please note we have been advised by the school bus companies that face masks are still required. Should you have any queries regarding this please contact them directly.

This decision comes in response to national infection data showing that COVID-19 is on a downward trajectory. It is likely the Omicron wave has now peaked nationally. However, the virus is still with us, and continuing with proportionate protective measures remains vital to protect education.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and students for the way they have handled the extra measures in schools, it has been great to see the student's resilience to it all.

Thank you also, for your continued support throughout this pandemic, it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

lan Smyrk *Headteacher*

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