



Saturday 15th May, 2021.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I'm sure you're aware, the advice and guidance issued by the government in relation to pupils' wearing of face masks and coverings has changed and, from Monday, it is no longer recommended that pupils wear face coverings or masks in classrooms or communal areas. If pupils want to continue to wear coverings they have our full support and won't be challenged or asked to remove these.

Given the low rates of infection in Warrington at the moment this change in guidance has been endorsed by the local authority and I have attached a letter issued to schools from the local authority for your information.

I also wanted to write to you about the attendance of pupils to school. We recognise that for some pupils returning to fulltime education following an exceptionally disjointed year has been incredibly difficult and we are working closely with families to ensure that pupils receive the support they need, including from external specialist agencies, after a difficult period of us all.

Whilst it's absolutely essential that we support pupils with immediate difficulties we must also balance this with consideration of the longer term impact on pupils and their life chances. I'm sure you can appreciate that after two prolonged periods away from the classroom it is crucial that pupils are in school as often as possible, working with staff on their academic development which has been disrupted and reintegrating to school life to support their social development.

Where you have concerns about your child, I would urge you to contact their Head of Year or our welfare team so that together we can coordinate support on their behalf. Where we have noticed a decline in the attendance of individuals since our return to school we'll be contacting parents across the next week to establish next steps and offer support where we can.

Obviously the press conference from the Prime Minister seemed to cast some doubt on the easing of restrictions in relation to the planned 'roadmap' and the complete lifting of restrictions from the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2021. We'll ensure that we communicate any potential impact on school, our operations or any planned events to parents as early as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



**PART OF THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST | NURTURE | CHALLENGE | ACHIEVE**

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# WARRINGTON

## Borough Council

Professor Steven Broomhead  
Chief Executive

Thara Raj  
Director of Public Health

Paula Worthington  
Director of Education

East Annexe  
Town Hall  
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Warrington WA1 1UH

14 May 2021

Dear Headteacher

The Prime Minister has announced that from the 17th May 2021 pupils in secondary schools will no longer be required to wear face coverings in the classroom or communal areas.

Due to Warrington currently experiencing the lowest rates since the start of the pandemic we are happy to confirm that we are supportive of this position at this time. If students and staff want to carry on wearing face coverings within the education setting they should be encouraged not discouraged from doing so. This advice will continue to be reviewed fortnightly and may change should there be an increase in rates across the area, as we are seeing in other parts of the North West. Alongside this, local advice to reintroduce face coverings may be provided to individual settings or the Town as a whole by the Director of Public Health in response to geographical or setting based outbreaks.

The guidance continues to advise staff and visitors to wear face coverings when in communal areas of all school settings. Pupils and staff should also continue to wear face coverings when travelling on public and school transport. We are also supportive of continuing to advise parents to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up their children outside school due to ongoing concerns about the inability to socially distance in some areas.

Yours Faithfully

**Thara Raj**  
Director of Public Health

**Paula Worthington**  
Director, Education, Early Help & SEND