

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule



FAO: Parents & Carers of Students at Denton Community College

RE: Clarification regarding the wearing of face masks in educational settings

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well at this time.

As part of the easing of Covid-19 restrictions confirmed by the Government this week the Department for Education (DfE) has now issued further guidance regarding the wearing of face masks in educational settings.

I am now in a position to confirm that from **Monday 17th May 2021** students and staff will no longer be required to wear face masks in the classroom or in communal areas in school. Whilst the removal of face masks may be welcomed by many we understand that some of our students and staff may be anxious as a result of these changes. Therefore any student or member of staff who wishes to continue to wear a face mask may do so. The government continue to recommend that face masks should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). It should also be noted that even though there is no requirement for students to wear face masks in school from Monday, the expectation from the Government is that they will still need to be worn on public transport, in shops and other indoor public places.

Whilst the need for wearing face masks in educational settings has been removed, it is expected that all our other precautions remain in place. These include the teaching of students in bubbles, the zoning of our school building and maintaining social distancing wherever possible. These measures are in place to protect our students, staff and their loved ones. We will therefore continue to maintain a zero tolerance when sanctioning students for deliberate breaches of our expectations.

Finally the decision to remove some of the Covid-19 restrictions is based on the current state of the pandemic and the positive progress being made. Whilst this is a very positive step the reintroduction of face masks for students may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual schools or a cluster of schools) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on. As always we will keep you updated of any such changes to current expectations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Rule', is positioned above the printed name.

Greg Rule
Headteacher