



# Northgate High School

*Inspiring excellence, fulfilling potential*

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Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA: Mrs Z Galley and Dr D Hone

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

In March we wrote to you to outline expectations regarding the management of a safe return of all students to school. We would like to thank you for all of your continued support and partnership working with our staff to maintain the learning, support and wellbeing of our children during this challenging time.

In line with the government's move to Step 3 of their roadmap, from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, we have carefully reviewed our guidance and risk assessments to ensure that we continue to operate within recommended expectations. New advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and visitors in schools and further education in England.

## ***Update to face coverings in education settings guidance***

Statement taken from DfE Guidance May 2021;

*From the 17th May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms.*

*In all schools we continue to recommend that face coverings 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).*

*Children and young people aged 11 and over **must still** wear a face covering on public transport. In accordance with advice from PHE, they **must also wear** a face covering when travelling on **dedicated transport to secondary school or college**. This does not apply to children and young people who are exempt from wearing face coverings.*

*The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.*

## **Our expectations on this change**

We fully recognise that there are arguments both for and against pupils and staff wearing face coverings in classrooms. Over the coming weeks, the Government will continue to review scientific evidence as we approach 21<sup>st</sup> June.



Our unrelenting drive is to keep all pupils and staff safe. We therefore **actively encourage** all staff and pupils to wear face coverings if they wish to do so in classrooms. It is really important to remember that a face covering does not only protect the person wearing it but also those around them.

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, face coverings will be worn in all corridors and communal areas where social distancing is not possible as is presently in place.

When travelling on dedicated transport to school or college you will also be required to wear a face covering.

All visitors to the school will be required to wear a face mask and conduct themselves in line with our risk assessment.

**Health and safety of all.**

We continue to ask parents/carers to ensure that pupils are NOT to come to school if they have any symptoms of Covid 19 and follow the national guidance on testing and isolation. If pupils develop any symptoms whilst in school, you will be asked to collect your child immediately. **It is essential that you or a registered family member are able to collect your child should they be required to be sent home.**

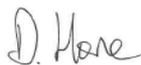
As we continue to navigate through the government's roadmap out of COVID, please keep checking your emails / messages and our website as we may issue further information, if changes need to be made.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Kind regards,



Mrs Z Galley  
Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA



Dr D Hone  
Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA