

20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that all Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27 January. Late yesterday afternoon the Department for Education emailed updated guidance stating that:

*In education and childcare settings, this means that from today face coverings are no longer recommended by the government in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.*

Consequently, we will no longer be enforcing the wearing of face masks in lessons from today. However, bearing in mind the high case numbers of COVID-19 locally, and the number of daily cases we have in school currently, we are recommending that staff, students and visitors to the school wear face masks whenever they are in lessons. It is one of the key measures we have in order to reduce transmission in school. Tutors have a supply of masks that they will continue to offer to students should they want one.

We will also no longer be enforcing the wearing of face masks in communal areas from next Thursday. Until then, this remains an expectation in school. After this point, we would again recommend this bearing in mind case numbers. We will review our COVID-19 measures in school next week. Any changes to our approach will be communicated to you, with an updated risk assessment.

Thank you for your ongoing support. So far this term it has been wonderful to see our students engaging brilliantly with their learning in lessons. Alongside this they have been taking up opportunities such as Netball fixtures, school production rehearsals, mock trial training, and an OX14 Learning Partnership Oxbridge project. We are keen to ensure all members of the Fitzharrys community are as safe as possible in school, whilst also ensuring they continue to have the best possible education and opportunities.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke  
Head of School

