



# Thornleigh Salesian College

Headteacher  
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26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As I am sure you are aware, on the 19th January, the Prime Minister announced the ending of many 'Plan B' measures, including the removal of the requirement for secondary school students to wear face coverings in the classroom. From 27th January, nationally, the requirement for secondary school students and all staff to also wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas is also being removed, **although the Government has made it clear that local Directors of Public Health may make recommendations to schools in their areas if they judge it necessary for the safety of public health.**

In line with the national guidance ('Contingency Framework') [Managing coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/managing-coronavirus-covid-19-in-education-and-childcare-settings), the local authority and schools in Bolton have continued to work together to plan for and respond to cases of COVID-19 amongst staff and students in a way that prioritises the quality of education and support to which students and staff are entitled.

Whilst overall case numbers have fallen in Bolton in recent days, they are not yet low and rates among children and young people continue to increase, with the rates in primary and secondary aged pupils being higher than any other age groups. Many schools are seeing significantly high levels of covid-related absence and also experiencing challenges with staffing capacity as a result, our school is no exception to this and we have had a sharp rise in cases over the past week.

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement Bolton Council Public Health, Bolton Council Children's Services and the School's Tactical group have carefully reviewed and updated the local guidance for Bolton education settings taking into account local transmission patterns and along with changes to the national guidance the guidance they have issued is that **'We continue to strongly recommend the continued use of face coverings by staff, visitors and students (Year 7 and above) in communal areas and advise caution when considering any gatherings.'** This is in line with other areas in Greater Manchester. At this point the recommendation is temporary until February half term when there will be a further review, and does not extend to the wearing of face coverings in classrooms. The public health team continue to monitor the local situation in Bolton on a daily basis.

In addition, we ask that all students, where possible, undertake two lateral flow tests per week. Should you require any further test kits they are available from your child's year team.

We will continue with our other baseline measures which include ventilation, enhanced cleaning, reduced large gatherings and regular hand sanitising/washing.

Thank you for your continued support

A O'Callaghan  
Headteacher

