

13 May 2021



Saffron Walden County High School

Saffron Academy Trust

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We are delighted that the positive news around the reduction in the likelihood of transmission of Covid-19 means that we are now in a position to remove some of the additional safety measures that we have in place.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement and the new DfE guidance, SAT schools will **not require** students to wear facemasks in classrooms or indoor communal areas reserved for one year-group from Monday 17th May. However, they must continue to wear them on school buses and when moving around the school corridors. Students may continue to wear masks in lessons if they choose to do so.

We are not yet removing masks completely at this time, apart from in classrooms, because year bubbles mix during movement around the school and this creates greater risk to the community. Therefore, students should continue to always bring a clean mask with them to school every day unless they have received an exemption.

It is worth remembering that we are in the midst of tests for our examination classes and we are keen to get these completed before we relax Covid measures further and it is still the case that those under 40 in our workforce have not yet been offered a vaccination.

A further change we will be making is to bring back into use our school changing rooms straight after the half-term holiday, on Tuesday 8th June. This means that, from 8th June, students **must not wear their PE kit to school**, but should return to the usual system of bringing their PE kit in a separate bag. We know that many students have enjoyed wearing their PE kit, but the impact on uniform standards across the whole school has been noticeable. Our experience is that a formal uniform helps us to uphold excellent standards that ultimately impact on learning, and so we would ask for parents' support on this matter and for all students to be equipped with the correct uniform and footwear from 8th June.

We keep all of our provision under review, and we hope that we will be in a position to bring back further indoor extra-curricular activities and additional opportunities in the second half of the summer term as the guidance for schools changes.

We have been very grateful for the support parents have shown for the school through this extremely difficult period.

Best wishes,

Caroline Derbyshire
Executive Headteacher

& Polly Lankester
Headteacher

