

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move towards the next stage of the government's road map and easing of lockdown restrictions, you will be aware of the announcement regarding the wearing of face masks in our secondary schools.

The Prime Minister has confirmed that from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in the classrooms or in communal areas.

As a Trust we recognise that not wearing masks will enable clearer communication to support learning and improve interaction between staff and students. However, face masks do act as an aid to suppressing transmission of the virus.

The schools in our Trust continue to work hard to continue to keep staff and students safe and will do everything possible to mitigate against the spread of Covid. Therefore, we will be taking the following action:

- From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May students and staff do not need to wear face masks, however, **they may do so if they wish.**
- Desks in classrooms will remain forward facing with students seated in rows. Regular cleaning of classrooms and hand sanitising will continue.
- Students travelling on school transport will be required to wear face masks.
- Although numbers of infection in North West Leicestershire are low, should there be a rise in infection rates, the re-introduction of face masks will be introduced for all.

Thank you for your continued support as we play our part in navigating our way towards the end of restrictions.

With my best wishes



**Mrs J Patrick**  
**CEO Apollo Partnership Trust**  
**Executive Secondary Headteacher The Castle Rock School and The Newbridge School**