



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**
Live life in all its fullness

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12 May 2021

Dear parents/carers

Face mask/covering update

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that the wearing of face masks by students in secondary schools is not recommended after 17th May 2021.

No one wants to see students or staff wearing face masks for longer than is necessary. It is obviously better for communication and learning if masks aren't required in classrooms, but any decision to this effect must follow the scientific advice. Evidence published by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies on Friday quite clearly said that it was important to maintain the current mitigation measures in schools, including mask wearing, in the coming months.

Face masks can help in the battle against Coronavirus together with twice-weekly testing, social distancing, good hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning of surfaces by our site staff and cleaning team.

I believe that by St Cuthbert's community working together, we are doing a very good job of keeping students and staff safe and that is why, for the sake of a few more weeks, I would ask parents to encourage their children to continue to wear masks whilst inside the school building.

We are not out of the woods yet. By the fact that a Covid strain first detected in India has recently been declared a "variant of concern" by Public Health England, this would suggest the need for greater caution.

I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

C.A. Twist

**Mrs C Twist
Headteacher**

