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Dear Parents/Carers,

In writing this letter, I was reflecting on the speed of change from the instruction I sent only two weeks ago as we returned to school in the New Year. Our young people have been working hard again in the midst of continual national challenge. Year 11 students received mock results last Friday, a key event in our calendar. I would like to congratulate all those who worked extremely hard and were rewarded with excellent grades. Many will of course still want more, we will continue to support all our students in examinable year groups for the remaining part of the academic year.

It was lovely to finally meet so many of you at the Year 7 and 9 face-to-face parents' evening events. Our staff commented on how useful the conversations were and wanted to pass on their thanks as well; they were equally thrilled to once again see you in person. We have all learnt to work differently over the past years; some aspects of remote events have been far more efficient so we will continue to embrace a blended approach, which hopefully will work for all.

You will have seen the announcement from the Prime Minister mid-week - in light of revised guidance we are making the following changes for Monday of which all students have been informed. Here at North Leamington School from Monday 24 January, face coverings will no longer be recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for students and staff, but will still be required in indoor communal areas until Thursday 27 January. From Thursday 27 January, face coverings will no longer be recommended in any school area; however, as has always been our position, any students, staff or visitors who wish to wear a face covering may continue to do so.

Please note that our Local Director of Public Health can, at any time, recommend a return to the use of face coverings in our educational setting should the school experience a Covid-19 outbreak. The Department for Education have issued the following rationale:

This decision comes in response to national infection data showing the prevalence of COVID-19 to be on a downward trajectory. Whilst there are some groups where cases are likely to continue rising, it is likely that the Omicron wave has now peaked nationally. This means it is right we remove the most stringent restrictions around wearing face coverings from education, but the virus is still with us, and continuing with proportionate protective measures remains vital to protect education.

In addition, and for many a reminder, changes to the self-isolation period for people who have tested positive for COVID came into effect on Monday 17 January. A link to the most updated guidance can be found [here](#).

Have a great weekend.

Mike Lowdell
Head Teacher