



Dear Parents,

You will be aware that on Monday night, the Prime Minister confirmed that as of the 17th of May, there will be further lifting of Coronavirus restrictions.

As always, the latest guidance is very detailed and we are currently working through the implications and the specific [application to a school setting](#). Our current understanding is that:

- The most visible change is that from Monday face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal spaces in schools. While I know that this will be a relief to many, I also recognise that there will be understandable concern for some members of our community and as such it is entirely acceptable if some students choose to continue to wear face coverings. We understand that the reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff could still be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks. In the meantime, staff and visitors will continue to be expected to wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be achieved and Senior School students will still need to wear face coverings if using public transport to travel to school and on any school-organised transport. For this reason, we encourage parents to make sure the students still have face coverings with them just in case they become needed.

- Residential trips are able to recommence. In the short term, this should include Silver DofE training, the Junior School trip to Patterdale and CCF camp. We also anticipate hosting the RGS Cricket Festival from the 5th to the 9th of July, to which the other Royal Grammar Schools in the UK will be invited to send teams.

### **Key events for the rest of Summer Term and planning for the Autumn**

As I mentioned in my last letter there is a lot happening in the remaining Summer Term, the best place to access information is on the [School Calendar](#), which can be synchronised with your own diary. As opportunities open up this will continue to be updated.

Work is also underway to look at the calendar of school events for 2021-2022, on the assumption that the next academic year will be more typical of the pre-Covid world. There are some Covid-related adjustments that we do intend to make permanent, such as continued use of remote academic parents' conferences, while also looking to maintain opportunities for parents to come into the school for key events, sports fixtures and performances throughout the year. We are also looking at how we continue to broadcast at least some of the school events we have shared online as we know how many extended families have enjoyed being able to access these, sometime from across the world.

If parents have any other feedback on the Covid-related changes they have valued and would like to see made permanent, please do let us know at [communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk).

With warmest wishes,

**Geoffrey Stanford**

Headmaster

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