

25th May 2021

I have had the pleasure of visiting all our Two Counties Trust Schools over the last half term. It has been lovely to see our students working hard and back in the routine of learning. Year 11 students and their teachers have had a busy half term working hard to ensure each of them has a robust portfolio of work to be assessed for their final GCSE and A Level grades. I want to personally thank them for their positivity and determination in a period of uncertainty.

Thank you to all families and students who responded positively to the request I made to maintain face coverings indoors beyond 17 May. This request was made in order to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 due to some high rates within the region. In my previous letter, I did say that I would review the situation as we approach the Spring Bank break. In consultation with the senior team at Frederick Gent School and our Health and Safety Manager we are updating our current risk assessment and we will no longer be requesting students to wear face coverings in the classroom from 14 June at Frederick Gent School. This decision has been taken due to a reducing transmission rate in the region, the vaccination programme having continued to reach more family members, and schools will become less congested once Year 11 are no longer required to be in school full time. This reduces the risk associated with COVID-19. Staff and students will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas and where social distancing cannot be maintained. I do understand that some staff and students may wish to continue to wear face coverings in other situations and that will be left to the individual to decide as we transition out of the universal use of face coverings. It is important to note that we may at some point in the future have to request that face coverings are again used in schools by students if transmission rates rise.

My senior and executive leaders are busy preparing for the next academic year. We are determined to work together across our schools to continue to improve our provision. For example, work has begun on developing and embedding our literacy strategies. I am pleased that we will be working on developing students' vocabulary through a rigorous execution of the word of the week strategy along with all our schools demonstrating they are taking reading seriously. Another key component of our strategy is to ensure that we are providing students with the best subject curriculum we possibly can, exceeding the expectations of the national curriculum and the exam board specifications.

I am honoured to lead The Two Counties Trust in our mission to provide our students with opportunities and experiences to enhance their life choices, making a positive contribution to the world we share. I will continue to do my utmost to ensure that we continue to live by our core values of ambition, teamwork and honesty.

Thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at Frederick Gent School. I know being a parent is not easy but we also know the most rewarding achievements in life are not easy to come by. Wishing you all a safe and relaxing Spring Bank Holiday.

Yours sincerely,

W.J. Davies

Wesley Davies

Chief Executive Officer

