# North Yorkshire County Council

| **To:** | Headteachers and Chair of Governors of Schools in Selby |
| **Date:** | Wednesday, 12 May 2021 |

**Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire**
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Dear Colleague,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, I am writing to you to provide some advice and clarity on face coverings in secondary schools. The Prime Minister announced that from the 17th of May 2021, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. The Government continues to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible.

However, as you are already aware, the COVID rate in Selby is currently higher than the England 7 day rate per 100,000 population as a result of a local outbreak. We are continuing to provide outbreak management support as well as monitor cases across Selby. We are pleased to see the rate slowly going down but it is still the highest in the County.

For this reason, our public health advice for secondary schools in Selby is to continue the use of face coverings for staff and students in classrooms and/or communal areas until May half term. We would also recommend that face coverings are worn by staff and visitors in situations where social distancing is not possible.

With asymptomatic testing operational and well established, the roll out of vaccines and everyone's efforts, we are all optimistic about where we are and where we are heading. It is, however, important to keep vigilant and remember **Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air**.

We appreciate your ongoing support in preventing the spread of the infection and reducing the impact on the County.

Yours sincerely

Louise Wallace
Director of Public Health