

**Belong . . .**  
**Believe . . .**  
**Achieve . . .**



Waterloo  
Oakdale  
BLACKWOOD  
NP12 ONU  
01495 233600  
ihsca@caerphilly.gov.uk  
www.islwynhigh.org

Headteacher: Mr J Hicks - BA (Hons) MA (Ed) NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mr G Bryce

1 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Please see attached a letter from the Minister for Education. On the Minister's instruction we shall be revising our guidance re. face coverings and from Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> December in the first instance all pupils and staff (unless medically exempt) shall be required to wear a face covering **in all communal areas and classrooms** until further notice. This has always been the requirement on public transport in Wales for pupils travelling to school on a bus and will continue to be the case for at least the remainder of term.

Pupils will not be required to wear their face coverings for any outdoor activity including time spent outdoors at break and lunch but they will be required to wear face coverings in the canteen except when sitting to eat or drink.

Pupils have a PSE lesson during period 4 today when anyone who does not have a supply of face coverings will be able to access our supply; they will also have the new requirements explained to them and have the opportunity to take away more lateral flow tests which we have continued to recommend throughout this term on a twice weekly basis.

In order that pupils and families have a reasonable amount of time to organise themselves for the new guidelines (and because we have an INSET day on Friday) they will come into force at the start of next week. The number of positive PCR cases at the school is very low at the moment but until more is understood about the significance of the new variant we have to work on the assumption that cases could potentially rise very quickly again in the coming weeks. Hopefully, good compliance with these arrangements will ensure that no one is left in the situation of having to self-isolate over the Festive period.

We look forward to your support in this matter and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

J Hicks  
Headteacher