

## Media Release

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

### **Face coverings no longer expected in classrooms in secondary and post-16 settings**

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In a further easing of measures within education, from Monday (24<sup>th</sup> January 2022) there will no longer be an expectation that face coverings are worn in classrooms and teaching spaces in secondary and post-16 settings.

The decision aligns with the relaxation of measures announced by the Civil Contingencies Authority this week, as the island continues to ease mitigations as case numbers sharply decline.

This change will further support efforts to enable students and staff to return to a more 'normal' educational experience.

However, face coverings will remain compulsory in communal areas for all staff and students in secondary and post-16 settings and for staff in communal areas within primary schools.

Nick Hynes, Director of Education, said:

'I hope this news will be welcomed by the community and signals further positive steps as we all seek to return to a more normal educational experience. I want to thank staff and students for the way they have adhered to the expectation around wearing face coverings in classrooms in recent weeks. In particular, our young people have acted with great maturity and are a credit to the island. At this stage we are maintaining the compulsory wearing of face coverings in communal areas but we hope to be able to relax mitigations further in a stage approach over the coming weeks.'