

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you today following the Government's recent announcement in regards to face coverings and social distancing.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while we gather more information. We will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops

Our top priority is safety in our school community and working together to keep the potential spread of Covid-19 under control.

This letter includes details regarding:

- Face coverings
- Testing
- Contact tracing and Isolation

### Face coverings

**From 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, we are asking for face coverings to be worn by students, staff and visitors in all communal areas within the school, unless they are exempt.** Similarly, students should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, again, unless they are exempt.

Some people may be exempt from wearing a face covering; if your child is exempt and you have not already informed the school, please do contact us as soon as you can. We would like to stress the importance of students being sensitive towards individual circumstances, particularly in instances in which their peers may not be wearing a face covering.

Following national guidance, we do not ask that pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms.

### Testing

Students are encouraged to continue using lateral flow device (LFD) tests twice weekly. You can find more information on how to request a home test or book a PCR test click [here](#).

The Department for Education have also provided updates on testing in schools: when students return to school in January, they will be offered one test onsite and can return to the classroom if the result is negative. They will then be encouraged to take a further test at home 3-4 days later.

### Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to measures, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

### Vaccination

All eligible students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

Vaccinations are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination reduced the risk of catching the virus and transmitting it to others.

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

### Further precautionary measures

We will be reviewing our precautionary measures and case numbers on a day by day basis and will look at further precautionary measures if it is deemed necessary.

I appreciate these latest guidance updates may have caused some concern for some of you, and I thank you in advance for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation as we continue to navigate this period. We will continue to follow Government guidance, reviewing our measures as the situation unfolds.

I hope that this update provides clarity on the current situation, and please be assured that the academy is continuing to do everything we can to protect the health and wellbeing of our students and wider community.

I would also encourage any parents/carers and/or students with any questions or concerns to get in touch with the academy directly so that we can offer our support.

Regards,



Mrs R Grey,

Principal