



29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Saturday the government confirmed that there have been cases of the new COVID-19 variant Omicron in the UK and as such new measures would come into force across the country on Tuesday. On Sunday evening all schools received an email outlining additional measures that would be needed in schools and more guidance will follow shortly when we have been informed.

This new guidance states the following:

- The reintroduction of face covering in all communal areas and on buses
- All close contacts of the new variant will have to isolate for 10 days regardless of their vaccination status. It states that close contacts will be contacted directly via Track and Trace

To support the implementation of the guidance we are asking the following:

Face coverings **must be worn**:

- In all assemblies
- Lining up in the dining hall
- All P16 communal areas
- Travel to and from school on all buses
- Parents / carers and visitors must wear face coverings whilst on campus

We also **strongly encourage** that face coverings also be worn in all classrooms too.

This guidance applies to all staff and students unless there is an exemption, for which students have been issued passes so as not to be challenged. It is therefore vital your child has a suitable face covering everyday for school.

All staff and students should continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

Alongside this the following measures will remain in place across our campus:

- Hand sanitiser in every room
- All rooms will be kept well ventilated and air quality monitored
- Enhanced cleaning regimes will remain in place

Given the significant drop in temperature and the need for fresh air in rooms please can I remind you that students are allowed to wear their indoor coats or PE hoodies whilst inside and where rooms are colder than normal.

Last week we had 17 staff absent, with the new rules around self isolation of close contacts we could very quickly reach a point where the school can not safely operate. At this point we would look at collapsing year groups and revert to remote learning. I urge all parents to support and encourage the use of face coverings in the coming weeks, so that we can remain fully open, provide on site education for all our students and protect the safety of our community. I am also very keen to ensure we all have a fantastic Christmas and believe that this simple measure provides the best chance of ensuring this happens.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Teece', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W Teece  
Headteacher