



**Opportunity
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29th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

IMPORTANT UPDATE – TEMPORARY NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Face Coverings

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

According to the new guidance for schools,

“Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings [schools] by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Pupils or students in year 7 or above should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.”

By communal areas, the Government is asking your child to wear a face covering in the corridors and in the school canteen. They are not asking your child to wear a face covering in the classroom.

In light of this new guidance, please will you ensure your child brings a face covering to school from Tuesday 30th November 2021. We appreciate this is very short notice so we have a supply of disposable masks that we will provide with students on a regular basis.

If your child is unable to wear a face covering due to medical reasons, please contact your child's Head of Year who will be happy to discuss this with you. In the meantime, I appreciate your support in working together for our students.

Head of Year 7 – Miss C Phillips
Head of Year 8 – Miss J Sheridan
Head of Year 9 – Mr J Mellor
Head of Year 10 – Ms V Froud
Head of Year 11 – Mr D Chapman

Please ensure that these are plain and without logos. We recommend based on previous experience that all students should bring a spare face covering. We will continue to supply disposable masks at the start of the day for students that don't have a mask.

Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. If your child tests positive after a PCR test then test and trace will notify you of the isolation period or if they are in a household



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where someone else has tested positive then they should isolate for 5 days. In addition to these, 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.

Other safety measures in place

We are encouraging students to wash their hands more frequently during the school day and antibacterial supplies are available in teaching rooms.

The local authority have asked all schools to complete a daily report to record the number of positive cases within schools. We have not met any of the thresholds since half term and have had low numbers of positive cases in comparison to other schools of a similar size. Should we meet one of the thresholds we will implement the Outbreak Management Plan and you will be notified of the next steps if you or your child is affected.

We are reviewing weekly the guidance from the government and local authority and will make decisions about visits and trips that were scheduled to take place before the end of term.

Testing

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child is completing a twice weekly LFD test.

All results (positive, void, and negative) should be registered with the Government using the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

All students have been given test kits to take home, and if they run out can collect additional kits from their Head of Year. The new test kits require students to take two nasal swabs only, which should be more comfortable for them to conduct.

Vaccination

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

Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccination, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirusvaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>



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We would appreciate your support in ensuring that you son or daughter understands the content of this letter so that we can reduce the spread.

Yours sincerely,

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

Liam McDaid
Principal