



**Opportunity
Community
Courage**

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by wishing you all a very happy New Year and hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas. I am aware a number of families, staff included, have been impacted by the Covid Omnicom variant during the holidays so I wish those affected a speedy recovery.

I am writing to update and remind you about a couple of items before we welcome our students to school tomorrow.

Face Coverings

As you will be aware the Department for Education have announced that students are advised to wear facemasks in classrooms as well as in communal areas when they return after the Christmas holiday, which will be reviewed at the end of January.

Please see their statement below:

“From, Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings.”

Face coverings limit the volume and travel distance of droplets dispersed when talking, breathing, and coughing, so we thank you for your support in ensuring that your child, unless exempt, comes to school prepared with a plain coloured face covering.

We will provide students with disposable masks at the start of each day if they prefer to use them.

Testing on return to school

We want to make sure that we start the term as well-prepared as possible so please could I urge your child, if possible, to take a lateral flow test before returning to school tomorrow so we can limit the spread of the virus in school. Additionally, we will be testing those children for whom we have consent for in the morning but ideally, we would have liked as many as possible to also test before coming back into the building.

Given the higher transmissibility of the Omicron variant it is essential that students continue to carry out lateral flow tests at home at least twice a week. If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test then they should remain at home and have a PCR test.



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Please continue to communicate with school during any period of self-isolation. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

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 of the virus.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam McDaid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Liam McDaid
Principal