

28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Coronavirus - Important update to all education and childcare settings/providers on the Omicron variant**

Apologies for the Sunday afternoon letter and interruption to your weekends, but following Government announcements over the weekend, I have just received updated guidance this afternoon, that we need to action from tomorrow. 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 whilst more information is gathered. The measures are to be kept under review.

**The most notable to us in school at present is the use of face coverings. *'Face coverings now need to worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and students in Year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt'*.**

**Therefore, all students will need to wear a face covering from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, whilst inside the building. They do not need to wear them in lessons at this time. To be clear, this is a Government decision that I must follow and not a decision I have taken at school level**

The remaining information shared this afternoon is directly quoted as follows:

**Testing**

*All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.*

**Contact tracing and isolation**

*The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place. 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.*

**Vaccination**

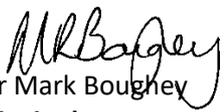
*All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.*

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

As I have said before, I fully appreciate that within our community differing opinions exist on such matters. We as a school are trying to provide the best possible educational experience whilst trying to navigate complex matters that the pandemic has raised. I ask that you respect all viewpoints and appreciate that we as a school are working within guidelines that can be beyond our control.

If you do have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Your sincerely



Mr Mark Boughey  
Principal