

29th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Today we have received updated guidance from the Department for Education regarding face coverings.

There is clearly a concern regarding the new Omicron variant and its potential to spread quickly, and although the **government is making face coverings compulsory in communal areas and on school transport**, we will continue to go beyond this and **strongly recommend you wear them at all times while on school premises**. This makes it easier for you and for staff, as it prevents the need for taking them on and off, and the constant reminders that would result.

Although we know this is not ideal, our approach throughout the pandemic has been to do all we can to keep all of our community safe, and this feels especially important now with a new variant emerging in the run up to Christmas.

The updated governmental guidance can be found [here](#), and a reminder of our current Academy guidance is detailed below.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings 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.

We will have a stock of face coverings at main entrances – please pick one up if you haven't got your own.

Testing

We encourage regular asymptomatic testing twice weekly for staff and students. Anyone receiving a positive Lateral Flow test result should self-isolate and arrange for a confirmatory PCR test.

It remains essential that if your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 they **do not attend school** and get a PCR test without delay. Further NHS information on this can be found [here](#). Please report test results to the school via school reception.

Yours faithfully



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