

14th December 2021

Update on Covid-19 precautions

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing to today to give an update on the Covid-19 precautions we are taking at the academy.

As you may know, the Government has introduced some new Covid rules in response to the 'Omicron' variant. You can [read more about this here](#) or by searching for 'Omicron Covid rules UK.'

The new rules include:

- Adults and older children are required to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport
- School staff and secondary students are required to wear face coverings in busy areas of school
- If it is suspected you have the Omicron variant of Covid-19, you will be required to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have a vaccine
- Anyone arriving in the UK from abroad will require a PCR test within 48 hours and will need to self-isolate until they have a result
- People travelling from 'red-list' countries will be required to quarantine for two weeks in a hotel on arriving in the UK.

What does this mean for the academy?

The first thing to say is that it remains safe to come to school. We have lots of precautions in place which are designed to reduce the risk for everyone, and to reduce the spread of Covid-19 within our community. We will be using this announcement as a good moment to check again the precautions we have in place.

Face Coverings

We will be following the government's guidance on face coverings. Starting now, all secondary students (and staff) are required to wear a face covering in communal areas at school (unless they are exempt).

Whilst there is no requirement, students (and staff) are permitted to wear their face covering in classrooms too.

Principal: Mrs Siân Dover
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Good hygiene and cleaning

We will also be reminding everyone about the importance of following the basic rules of good hygiene:

- Washing your hands
- Cleaning your surroundings
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.

Testing

Please continue to support your child to test at home, twice weekly (if they consent). This is a very powerful tool in reducing the spread of Covid-19 by people who do not have symptoms.

Vaccination

Vaccination, and in some instances vaccination boosters, are now available for all adults and children over 12 who consent. Please support your child to receive the vaccine if you as a family consent. This will help to reduce the risk for everyone.

Assemblies and events

All our assemblies and Year Group Meetings will continue in the year group bubbles. Our final whole school assembly will take place in year groups so we will unfortunately not be doing a whole school assembly in the sports hall. This is a real shame as the opportunity to all come together as one family is always a highlight of the year. Despite this, we will still ensure we enjoy our last day of term together on Friday the 17th December 2021.

Essential visits to the academy

As an additional precaution we will be reducing the number of outside visitors to the school, asking that only essential visitors come into the academy. Any visitors must wear a face covering when in the academy.

Over the holidays

We are all looking forward to the upcoming Christmas holiday, and for many families this is a time to travel to see friends and family.

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As this may increase the likelihood of spreading or catching Covid-19, we are encouraging all secondary students (and staff) who consent to continue testing twice weekly throughout their time off, and should they receive a positive test to [request a PCR test](#) as soon as possible.

Likewise, should you or your child develop symptoms of Covid-19, we encourage you to request a PCR test as soon as possible. If it is suspected that you have the Omicron variant, NHS Test and Trace will ask you to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have had the vaccine.

Please also note that:

- Face coverings are now required for all adults and older children when visiting shops and on public transport.
- If you are planning on travelling abroad, please note that the rules have now changed and that if you enter the UK from a foreign country, you have two days to take a PCR test. While you are waiting for a result, you must self-isolate, whether you have been vaccinated or not.
- In response to the new variant, new countries have been added to the red-list. Please check the latest [‘Red-list’ country](#) list to see if this will impact on your plans.

Returning to school in January

The Government have asked that all secondary students (who consent) complete one on-site asymptomatic test when they return to school in January, and then continue to complete tests twice weekly at home. On Tuesday the 4th January 2022 all our students will access their learning at home on their iPads. They will then only come into school that day at a specific time where they will have their Covid-19 test.

The times for the covid testing on Tuesday 4th January are as follows:

Year Group	Reporting time	Testing end time	Line Up location
Years 13, 12	8:30	9:30	Student Entrance 2 – into the school building
Year 11	9:30	10:30	Student Entrance 2 – into the school building
Year 10	10:30	11:30	Student Entrance 2 – into the school building
Year 9	11:30	12:30	Student Entrance 2 – into the school building
Year 8	12:30	13:30	Student Entrance 2 – into the school building
Year 7	13:30	15:00	Student Entrance 2 – into the school building

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Please only send your child to school at the time above. The test will take no longer than 20 minutes and they must then return home immediately.

Thank you as always for your understanding and support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Siân Dover'.

Mrs Siân Dover
Principal

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