

3 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Firstly, Happy New Year, I hope you have all had an enjoyable and safe festive period. Below are some updates and information about the January return to the academy.

Face Coverings in Classrooms

The Government has temporarily recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms and teaching spaces for students in year 7 and above, in light of the Omicron variant surge. The advice is to support pupils and staff as they return to schools this term and builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings for all students and adults (unless exempt) in communal areas of all settings. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. Based on the above government announcement, we ask that all students, staff and visitors, unless exempt, bring and wear a face covering when inside the school building. We already have a list of exempt students and well established procedures for students who are exempt from wearing face coverings but please do not hesitate to contact the academy should you wish to speak to someone further regarding this.

Isolation following a positive PCR Test

According to Government guidance, since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both of these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self isolation after the second negative test result and return to the academy from day 8.

Close Contact

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you are at significantly higher risk of becoming infected yourself.

According to current government guidance, if you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are not legally required to self-isolate. However, you are strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results are positive.

Please use the link to the Google Form below, which outlines the process and enables you to upload the daily LFD tests. <https://forms.gle/bmyXHovyQbrvHaan8>

Return this week

Please also read the government's [‘Stay at home guidance: for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19 infection’](#).

Students should attend our onsite testing this week as detailed below.

	8am - 11am	11am - 2pm	2pm - 4pm
Tues 4 Jan	Year 7	Year 9	Year 11
Wed 5 Jan	Year 8	Year 10	Any students

The academy will open to all year groups on Thursday 6 January and students should continue to regularly take LFD tests at home.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support, we will endeavour to keep you updated with any further information we receive over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



Paul Haynes