

20th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I have been delighted to see how pupils have returned to school following the Christmas break. They have seamlessly transitioned into the new measures and slipped back into excellent learning habits.

Face masks

You may be aware that the Prime Minister announced in Parliament yesterday that, from today, face coverings will no longer be recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff and pupils. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure. From Thursday 27th January, the government has also announced that face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for all staff and pupils.

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff is always our highest priority. Speaking to colleagues in other local secondary schools, we are in a similar position; high levels of absence, with some pupils missing important face to face teaching, and a reliance on supply teachers covering lessons. For this reason, I ask for your support to encourage pupils to continue to wear face covering as part of our continued protective measures to minimise the risk and transmission.

Home testing

There appears to be a large variation in the number of pupils regularly testing at home and reporting the results. To make this as easy as possible going forward we would ask that all students test twice a week, on a Sunday night and again on a Wednesday night. Please continue to report the results from the LFD testing using the following link: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

Close contact and isolation rules

Pupils who have an individual in house (i.e., sibling or parent) with a positive COVID result should continue to attend school and take an LFD test every day for seven days. If your child develops symptoms they should isolate and book in a PCR test.

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The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after five days, following two negative tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD should not be taken before the fifth day and reported online - [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result) If both these test results are negative on day five and six, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result on day six and return to school. Individuals who are still positive on their rapid lateral flow tests must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days.

Punctuality and attendance to school

A reminder that all pupils should arrive on site ready to learn in full school uniform at **by 08:45am (and not before 08:20am)** to ensure that they are in their correct location for morning line up at 08:50am with their tutor group. Arrival to school after this time will be logged as being late (XL) resulting in a sanction being issued. A supervised breakfast club provision has been made available from 08:00am – 08:30am whereby pupils can access a free bagel(s) in the canteen before the start of school.

Yours faithfully



Paul McCahill
Headteacher