

28th November 2021

BY EMAIL TO: All Families

Ref: Omicron Covid variant update

Dear Parents and Carers

Sorry for the weekend email but you will no doubt be hearing and reading about the concerning situation regarding the new Omicron Covid variant.

On Saturday, the Prime minister made an announcement that face coverings should be worn by non-exempt people in all communal places and on public transport due to concerns relating to the new variant.

Schools then received some information regarding a return to on site testing after the Christmas break on Friday and today, Sunday at 4 pm, the Government have shared key information with schools to be in place by tomorrow morning, Monday, the 29th of November.

Taken from today's email from the Department of Education...

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.

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.

In summary,

1. From tomorrow morning, Monday 29th November, all students and staff, unless they are medically exempt, will be expected to wear an adequate face covering in all communal areas in the school. Please ensure, therefore, that your child comes to school with a face mask in the morning and is prepared to wear it in all communal areas whilst they remain in the building.
2. Please do continue to carry out twice weekly LFD tests and report the results via the NHS app. If your child does test positive for Covid using an LFT test then please contact the school immediately using the Covid contact email set up by Mr Raw this year.
3. If you or your child are contacted by NHS track and trace and you have been informed that you have been in contact with someone with the Omicron variant and need to isolate then again, please let the school know via the email system immediately.

If you have any questions then please contact myself or Mr Raw, Deputy Head and we will help you in any way we can.

Best wishes and stay safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Nelson', written in a cursive style.

Gary Nelson
Headteacher