

Dear Parents/Carers,

29 November 2021

I hope you and your family are well. This letter explains recent changes to Covid safety measures in schools. Please do read everything carefully and please note that it is taken directly from Government guidance.

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant. The Government will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops. These measures will be reviewed the week before Christmas.

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. Please ensure your child comes to school with a face covering tomorrow.

Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

Students who are medically exempt will not be expected to wear a face mask. If a medical exemption applies, students should report to student support in order to be issued with a badge to make this clear to other members of our community.

Testing

Schools should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. Please do ensure your child and family members take an LFT test twice a week and report positive cases to the school.

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.

Principal Hannah Fahey

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

The World Health Organisation explain that vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

Changes to the red list for international travel to England

Individuals arriving in England from red list countries must follow the [red list](#) rules.

South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe moved onto the red list at 12pm Friday 26 November. Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia were added to the red list 4am Sunday 28 November.

Please notify the school immediately if you had planned to travel to any of these countries.

The Academy has done a fantastic job to provide high quality teaching, enrichment and after school events since our return in September. We may need to review some rules around parents' evenings until we hear further advice. Any changes will be communicated with the Year groups involved.

I pray you and your family remain well as we approach the festive period and thank you for all your support.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Fahey
Principal