

1 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID Update – 1 December 2021

I hope you are all well. As you will be aware, on Saturday 27 November the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. There are many unknowns about this new variant, however, it does appear that Omicron spreads very rapidly and can be spread between people who are double vaccinated. ***There is a new requirement for all close contacts of those who test positive with a suspected case of Omicron to self-isolate for ten days, regardless of vaccination status.***

As stated in my previous letter dated 25 November, Public Health have advised that we, along with many other schools, should maintain 'Amber' measures until the end of this term. We feel this is a sensible precaution, especially in light of this weekend's announcement from the Government.

In addition to our enhanced cleaning, hand washing and ventilation, the following additional measures will continue until the end of term:

- **Face Coverings** - face coverings to be worn in communal areas in all settings by students, staff and visitors, unless they are exempt.
- **Social distancing** – maintain social distancing, to avoid catching and spreading Coronavirus.
- **Testing** – students and staff to continue 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. Anyone affected will be contacted directly and told to isolate.
- **Vaccination** – please continue to take up the offer of the vaccine, including the boosters. They help protect young people and adults. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. To book a vaccination, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>
- **Travel Lists** - individuals arriving in England from red list countries must follow the red list rules. [Red list of countries and territories - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/red-list-of-countries-and-territories) **If you are planning to travel to/from one of these countries, please inform the school office.**
- **Return to school in January 2022** – students will stagger their return to school to enable all students to attend a single onsite test for Covid **prior to being in school**. We plan to start with Year 7s, then Year 11s and 10s later in the day. Year 8s and 9s will be returning a day

later on 5 January. Once your child has completed the testing process they will return to their normal school timetable. We will provide more detail regarding the return to school by the end of this term.

	Onsite Testing Date	Time slot
Year 7	Tuesday 4 January	8:30- 10:30
Year 8	Wednesday 5 January	8:30 – 10:30
Year 9	Wednesday 5 January	11:00 – 13:00
Year 10	Tuesday 4 January	13:45 – 15:45
Year 11	Tuesday 4 January	11:00 – 13:00

Following the onsite testing, students will be required to continue home testing twice a week, ideally on a Monday and a Thursday.

These measures will be reviewed in time for our return to school in January 2022. Please do look out for further emails during the Christmas holidays in case we are notified of late changes, as last year.

Thank you as always, for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

