



29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

FACE MASKS

In response to the Omicron variant of Covid-19, the Department for Education has advised schools and colleges that face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and students in Year 7 and above. Furthermore, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age.

From tomorrow therefore, we will be expecting all students (other than those who are exempt) to wear face masks in communal areas, which includes in the corridors and in assemblies. Students taking mock exams currently will be asked to wear masks as they line up and move to the exam area, but once seated they will be able to remove their mask if they wish. There will be no compulsory mask-wearing in classrooms but windows will be kept open to ensure good ventilation and we will still maintain good hand sanitising routines.

These changes will be added to the risk assessment which can be found on our website. We will have plenty of spare face masks available for students but we would be grateful if you could encourage your child to bring his/her own to school.

Finally, we have been advised that students will be tested once on-site on their return to school in January. We do not yet know any further details about this but I will keep you informed. In the meantime, do please continue to carry out regular testing at home as we have been doing since September.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J Veal'.

Mrs J Veal
Executive Head teacher