

5 January 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope that you all had an enjoyable festive period. I understand that many of you and your families are worried about the Omicron variant and the difficulties this could bring when your child returns to education. We all know that face-to-face education is the best way for children and young people to learn and that we must balance this against wider public health risks brought by Covid-19. I want to reassure you and your families that enabling face-to-face education is my absolute priority. You have already done an outstanding job in implementing measures that have helped to keep your child in face-to-face environments.

Testing remains a priority. All secondary school students will be asked to undertake one on-site test on Thursday 06th January, prior consent remains. Test participation helps reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the holidays.

Government advice recommends that we take targeted and proportionate action by asking all adults and students to wear face coverings in all communal settings and should also be worn in classrooms and teaching spaces where students in year 7 and above are educated.

All staff and students are also strongly encouraged to continue to take tests twice a week using an LFD test and to report all results to [the NHS](https://www.nhs.uk) and to their setting.

Parents should report results on the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>), but there is no need for parents to report negative results to school.

To keep our school community safe and our students in school there are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Symptoms of COVID 19

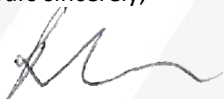
The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
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For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 119.

Yours sincerely,



Rachael Fidler
Principal

