

29 November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Over the weekend you have no doubt seen the news about the new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron' and the Prime Minister's announcement relating to rules around face coverings. On Sunday afternoon we received an email from the Department for Education (DfE), informing us of the changes to guidance around face coverings in schools.

The guidance states that from today: '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.'

This means that from tomorrow we will expect all those in school to be wearing a face mask when in communal areas, unless they have an exemption. Therefore, all members of the school community will need to wear a mask in the following areas:

- Internal corridors and staircases
- Main hall and canteen
- Toilets
- Reception and other office spaces
- The library
- Shared offices
- Any other shared indoor spaces

As things stand, this means that students will not need to wear masks in classrooms or in outdoor spaces. However, as currently, students and staff are welcome to do so if they wish to.

From Tuesday we will expect all students, staff, and visitors to adhere to these expectations (unless they have an exemption). Students should bring a mask everyday and use it in the outlined communal areas. When not in use masks should be stored safely and hygienically. We recommend reusable masks that can be washed. All single use masks should not be washed or reused. Further guidance on face coverings can be found at: [Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-exemptions-and-how-to-make-your-own)

Tutors will check each morning that students have a mask with them. They will carry spares for those who occasionally forget their face covering. If a student regularly forgets to bring one into school their



tutor will contact home.

We have a list of exempt students from the last academic year. If your child needs to be added to, or removed from, that list then please contact us.

We will await further detail from the DfE in the coming days and will continue to review our approach as the situation develops. We will be in contact if we need to make any changes.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Head of School



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