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3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

## Revised Covid-19 Schools Guidance for January 2022

Dear parents and carers

Happy New Year. I hope you have had a restful Christmas period.

There have been some changes to Government guidance about Covid-19 precautions in schools which I will set out in this letter.

First, may I remind you that **all students should take a lateral flow test prior to returning to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. If you have not booked for this to take place at school this Tuesday, please ensure your son/daughter carries out this test at home either on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning before leaving for school.

Students must not return to school if they are symptomatic or test positive. Symptoms of the Omicron variant may be milder. If in doubt, please book a PCR test and keep your child at home.

### Face coverings

The Government have asked that **all secondary school students wear face coverings both in lessons and in communal areas (including on buses)**. Please ensure that your son/daughter has a suitable face covering.

This policy applies until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January when it will be reviewed.

### Isolation

As you know, those testing positive for Covid-19 are required to isolate for 10 days. However, **students may now return to school after 7 days** of isolation if:

1. They have two negative lateral flow tests taken 24 hours apart, the first one being taken no earlier than day 6 of isolation.
2. They do not have a high temperature.

For example, a student may take a test on day 6 and day 7 which are both negative and they do not have a high temperature. They may then return to school on day 8. Day 8 is the earliest a student may return to school.

Similarly, a student may return to school on day 9 or 10 if they have tested negative for the two days previously.



### Close contacts

Those under the age of 18 years and 6 months do not have to isolate when identified as a close contact and should continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms or test positive. However, they should **take a lateral flow test each day for 7 days**. This test should be **taken before leaving to travel to school in the morning** (not the night before).

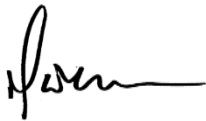
### Staff absence

Last term we experienced very high levels of staff absence at times. As we move through the peak of this latest wave, absence levels may be higher still.

The Government have asked all public sector bodies to make contingency plans for up to 25% staff absence. We will continue to do all we can to keep all year groups in school, however there is a point at which it is no longer safe to do so. If we reach this tipping point, we will prioritise keeping GCSE and A Level students in school.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support. We are determined that students experience a full and enriching education for the remainder of this academic year despite further challenges.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Evans  
Headteacher