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24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Letter to all pupils in the Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form Phases. We are writing specifically to you today to firstly reiterate key information about our COVID-19 protocols and to explain the self-isolation rules

### **Face coverings**

Following the latest announcement from the Prime Minister on 19<sup>th</sup> January, secondary students are no longer requested to wear face masks in the classroom from 20<sup>th</sup> January. Students will still need to wear a facemask in communal areas until 27<sup>th</sup> January. From this date, face masks are no longer a requirement in schools.

Students can still wear a face mask/covering, if they want to.

### **Virus Prevention**

From 27<sup>th</sup> January we have very few virus prevention protocols left, which mitigate against Covid-19 with the lifting of face masks. We continue to maintain the same cleaning regimes that we have had in place throughout the pandemic and to encourage all pupils and adults to maintain good hygiene protocols. We have many hand sanitisers throughout the school building.

The government continues to encourage every individual who can and is entitled to, to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others from Covid-19.

### **Face-to-face provision, workforce and operational matters**

You will have seen and heard in the national news that up to 25% of public sector workers could be affected by COVID-19 absence including the school sector workforce. You will also know from my regular communication to you that we are currently affected by staff absence due to sickness. Staff absence puts pressure on us to maintain full face-to-face provision and it continues to be increasingly difficult to recruit supply teachers to cover absence as there is a serious shortage. We continue to do everything that we can to maintain in-school provision for all our pupils on site.

The Secretary of State for Education wrote to schools on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 and has advised a flexible approach to delivery and learning in relation to the school workforce and the operational challenges that covid-related absence may cause. Flexible delivery involves utilising our available teaching and non-teaching workforce to maximise on-site education for as many pupils as possible while allowing us to flexibly deliver provision either on-site or remotely to some pupils. We may have to combine classes. We may have to return to remote provision for some pupils. If we must implement any of the options, they will be a short-term measure, we will always endeavour not to disrupt the on-site education of examination year groups (years 11 and 13) and our most vulnerable pupils. We will always return to full-time in-person attendance for all pupils as soon as practicable. As always, we will communicate to you as soon as possible via ParentMail and our website if we must sadly make any such decisions.

## **COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters**

You can pre-book your booster dose online if it has been 2 months (61 days) since you had your 2nd dose

16- and 17-year-olds can get two doses of the COVID vaccine and a booster if they have had the vaccines. They can book an appointment through the national booking service and walk in centres are available.

Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot via the national booking system.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the Covid-19 Vaccination will be offered to all secondary students on site on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. If you consent to your child having the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine, please fill out the online consent form which will be sent out in a separate email via parent mail.

Information on vaccination for 12- to 15-year-olds can be found in the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>

Walk-in vaccination centres are also open to all the above categories of people without an appointment. You can find out your local centre from this link:

[NHS Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#)

Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination and booking a vaccination can be found on NHS.UK: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>

## **Changes to the self-isolation period**

This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals of any age:

Unless you are clinically vulnerable, you are no longer required to take a PCR test, if you test positive with a LFD test.

From Monday 17th January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 and who have tested positive with an LFD or a PCR, will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.

**For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.**

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, **whichever is earliest. Having completed 10 days' isolation, a negative LFT is not required.**

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

**All LFD tests whether positive, negative or void must be reported to the NHS, this is important so that the number of cases can be tracked.**

**All LFD test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.**

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Lloyd  
Co - Principal - Secondary and Sixth Form Phase



Mrs Dosanjh  
Co-Principal – Primary Phase