

4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

During the Christmas break, the Prime Minister updated national guidance on face coverings in schools. **Therefore, from the start of Term 3 on Wednesday 5th January 2022, face coverings should be worn by students and staff in classrooms.** This is a temporary measure aimed to reduce the spread of the Omicron variant within schools and is due to be reviewed at the end of January.

Some people may be exempt from wearing a face covering; if your child is exempt and you have not already informed the school, please do contact us as soon as possible. We would like to stress the importance of students being sensitive towards individual circumstances, particularly in instances in which their peers may not be wearing a face covering.

Students, staff and visitors should continue to wear face coverings in all communal areas within the school, unless they are exempt. Similarly, students should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt. Other protective measures that were in place before the Christmas break, or are to be put in place from January 2022 onwards include:

- 'Clean, learn, clean' strategy in classrooms.
- Ventilation in classrooms – we will be keeping external windows and doors open where possible for air circulation, so please ensure your child has light layers underneath their white shirt.
- All assemblies online.
- Limit parent access to the office - it is strongly advised that you call or email the school before coming on to the premises.
- Limit visitors to site to essential visitors only – unfortunately, this means the Year 8 Parents Evening will be a telephone call from class teachers. Mr Evans will be communicating in a separate letter outlining the procedures before the end of the week.
- Teaching zones in classrooms – staff may remove their face covering when in this safe area (2m distanced).

Following my communication last term, students are required to undertake an LFT test before returning to school and continue to test twice weekly.

We will of course, do all we can to keep our school open for face-to-face learning. However, if we are impacted by rising case numbers within year groups, or large staff absences, we may need to move some year groups to remote learning. We can all play our part in preventing this by following the safety measures in place such as wearing face coverings and continued testing.



Following the Christmas break, if your child has developed symptoms of COVID-19, please ensure they do not return to school until the end of your isolation period. Please book a PCR test and seek advice from the NHS website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. In this instance, please contact the school office from Wednesday 5th January, and we will advise you on the measures.

We continue to encourage all students and staff to participate in regular COVID-19 testing. This will help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. Students are asked to continue testing twice weekly at home and to report all results to NHS Test and Trace and to their setting using this [link](#). We continue to make LFT tests available to students who need them. Even if you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, you are strongly encouraged to take part in LFT testing once you have completed the isolation period for prior infection.

A reminder that since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people has changed. If your child receives a negative test result on day 6 and day 7 (at least 24 hours apart) then they can leave self-isolation on day 7.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear. If you have any questions, please email office@goodwinacademy.org.uk. We are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe learning environment for students and staff and will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our students, while following Government rules and advice.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith
Principal