

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank you for your continued support this week as we continue to fight against the spread of the latest variant of Covid-19. The students have taken the wearing of face coverings in classrooms in their stride and they have been a real credit to you and to our Academy. As you are aware, the key measures of face coverings, hygiene and ventilation are crucial to do all we can to prevent the spread of infection.

The issue of ventilation has been an interesting one this week with plummeting external temperatures and we have taken the decision to allow students to wear their coats inside the building on two consecutive days. We will continue to monitor this on a daily basis but I would like to reassure you that the heating is on all day! To allow necessary ventilation, high level windows are open, where possible, to avoid draughts and not all lower level windows are open. However, where windows are open it is needed to suitably purge the room. I would strongly recommend that students wear their V-neck school jumper under their blazer.

Following recent Government announcements regarding the Omicron variant, it is even more important that students are testing regularly for the virus using LFD tests at home. Currently, we have a number of students absent from school who have tested positive with a home LFD kit and who are now isolating. Most of them have no symptoms and, if they had not been tested, they would have been in our school potentially transmitting the virus to others. We are incredibly grateful to these students for their selfless act of responsibility to protect others and I strongly urge those of you not currently enabling your child to be tested to do so.

On Monday, we will be issuing more home test kits to those students whose parents have provided consent and we appreciate your support in ensuring that these kits continue to be used effectively.

The next few weeks will be difficult and undoubtedly more staff and students will become infected but we will continue to do our level best to remain open and to provide the best education we can for our young people.

I am delighted that we have been joined by the following new staff this term:

- Mr Moulds Curriculum Leader PE
- Mr Ingram Teacher of ICT/Computer Science
- Mr Drury Teacher of ICT/Computer Science
- Mr Lowery Cover Supervisor
- Mrs Longthorn Teaching Assistant



Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

The Spring Term is another busy term and I would like to highlight some upcoming events:

Date	Year Group	Event
Tuesday 11 January (pm)	7 and 8	Brandon Hunt performance and Healthy Relationships (please separate correspondence)
Wednesday 12 January	7, 8 and 9	Reports home
Monday 17 January	13	Centre Assessed Exams commence
Wednesday 19 January	10	Reports home
Thursday 20 January	9	Parents' Evening (virtual)
Monday 31 January	11	Sixth Form Interviews commence
Monday 31 January	12	Centre Assessed Exams commence

Further detailed information regarding the Year 9 Option Process will be shared with parents/carers early next week. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

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Scott Wilson Headteacher