



Dear Parents and Carers

## **New Covid control measures in response to the Omicron Variant**

The details of the new expectations of schools are set out in this blog from the [Department for Education](#). Below I will set out how this will work in school:

### **Face Coverings**

From Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, face coverings will be compulsory for staff and students. In practice this will mean that:

- All students, other than those who are exempt, will be expected to wear face coverings on the school premises including in lessons.
- The only time students do not have to wear a face-covering is when they are eating or drinking
- Students who are exempt will be issued with an orange lanyard which they must wear at all times
- Year Teams will impose sanctions if a student who is not exempt refuses to wear a face-covering
- Students must wear face-coverings on school buses
- Students should be aware that this is a school rule and they are expected to follow it
- Staff will continue to wear face-coverings when they are unable to maintain a 2m distance from a student

### *Exemptions*

Some students may be exempt from wearing face-coverings at school if they cannot put on, wear or remove a face-covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability.

**If this is the case, then parents must complete [this online form](#) urgently and before Tuesday 30th November 2021.** Students who are exempt will be issued with a lanyard that they must wear throughout the day. If this form is not completed, then students will be expected to wear a face covering.

Previous exemptions will be carried forward and parents do not need to resubmit details on this form. This form is only for students who joined the school this academic year or who have become exempt during this academic year. Students who were previously exempt are asked to bring their orange lanyard into school.

### *Mock Exams*

We will expect students who are not exempt to wear face coverings in mock exams that are taking place between now and the end of term. We will continue to run these exams in the school halls as these are large, well-ventilated spaces. Students will be able to remove their face-covering if they need to take a drink during the mock exam.

## *Classrooms*

The decision to include classrooms in the requirement for face coverings is a very cautious one. It is made because we are conscious that the new variant has been identified in Nottingham. We will continue to monitor this decision between now and the end of term and will remove it as soon as we feel confident that it is safe to do so.

## **Other measures we are taking**

We will continue to enforce the hygiene measures that are set out on our Covid Control Measures page of the website. However, in addition to this, we will move to assemblies being broadcast live to tutor groups instead of holding them in the school hall. All other activities will continue as planned in school but will be made safer by the introduction of face-coverings.

## **Testing and Vaccinations**

We encourage all staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow tests. If your child has not yet been vaccinated but would like to do so you can make an appointment by following this [link](#). All students who are 12 years old or over are eligible for their first vaccine; students who are 16 and 17 years old can now book a vaccine and will be offered an appointment from 12 weeks after their first dose. The full details of eligibility are set in the information from the NHS if you follow the link above.

The government has also asked schools to offer students one on-site lateral flow test before they return to school after the Christmas holiday. We will be in touch with you with details of how this will work at Kimberley before the end of term.

## **And Finally.....**

Our priority is to keep school safe and open so that we can minimise the disruption to all students. Thank you for your continued support in helping us achieve this.

Yours faithfully



Andrew George  
Head Teacher