

Tuesday 30th November 2021

Dear parents and carers

Update on Covid-19 precautions

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing to today to give an update on the Covid-19 precautions we are taking at the academy.

As you may know, the Government has introduced some new Covid rules in response to the 'Omicron' variant. You can [read more about this here](#) or by searching for 'Omicron Covid rules UK.'

The new rules include:

- Adults and older children are required to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport
- School staff and secondary students are required to wear face coverings in busy areas of school
- If it is suspected you have the Omicron variant of Covid-19, you will be required to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have a vaccine
- Anyone arriving in the UK from abroad will require a PCR test within 48 hours and will need to self-isolate until they have a result
- People travelling from 'red-list' countries will be required to quarantine for two weeks in a hotel on arriving in the UK.

What does this mean for the academy?

The first thing to say is that it remains safe to come to school. We have lots of precautions in place which are designed to reduce the risk for everyone, and to reduce the spread of Covid-19 within our community. We will be using this announcement as a good moment to check again the precautions we have in place.

Face Coverings

We will be following the government's guidance on face coverings. Starting now, all secondary students (and staff) are required to wear a face covering in communal areas at school (unless they are exempt). Whilst there is no requirement, students (and staff) are permitted to wear their face covering in classrooms too.

Good hygiene and cleaning

We will also be reminding everyone about the importance of following the basic rules of good hygiene:

- Washing your hands
- Cleaning your surroundings
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.

Testing

Please continue to support your child to test at home, twice weekly (if they consent). This is a very powerful tool in reducing the spread of Covid-19 by people who do not have symptoms.

Vaccination

Vaccination, and in some instances vaccination boosters, are now available for all adults and children over 12 who consent. Please support your child to receive the vaccine if you as a family consent. This will help to reduce the risk for everyone.

Assemblies and events

We are currently reviewing all the events we have planned within the Academy in the build-up to Christmas, and we will provide an update shortly.

Essential visits to the academy

As an additional precaution we will be reducing the number of outside visitors to the school, asking that only essential visitors come into the academy.

Over the holidays

We are all looking forward to the upcoming Christmas holiday, and for many families this is a time to travel to see friends and family.

As this may increase the likelihood of spreading or catching Covid-19, we are encouraging all secondary students (and staff) who consent to continue testing twice weekly throughout their time off, and should they receive a positive test to [request a PCR test](#) as soon as possible.

Likewise, should you or your child develop symptoms of Covid-19, we encourage you to request a PCR test as soon as possible. If it is suspected that you have the Omicron variant, NHS Test and Trace will ask you to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have had the vaccine.

Please also note that:

- Face coverings are now required for all adults and older children when visiting shops and on public transport.
- If you are planning on travelling abroad, please note that the rules have now changed and that if you enter the UK from a foreign country, you have two days to take a PCR test. While you are waiting for a result, you must self-isolate, whether you have been vaccinated or not.
- In response to the new variant, new countries have been added to the red-list`. Please check the latest [‘Red-list’ country](#) list to see if this will impact on your plans.

Returning to school in January

The Government have asked that all secondary students (who consent) complete one on-site asymptomatic test when they return to school in January, and then continue to complete tests twice weekly at home. We will provide further details about these arrangements in due course.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please contact the academy on T: 0161 624 9630 or email: admin.requests@oasisoldham.org.

Thank you as always for your understanding and support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Dillon
Principal

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