



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. As with previous updates, I have summarised the key points below, but please do read on for further detail.

- **Face coverings will be reintroduced in communal areas from Tuesday 30th November**
- **All students must bring two face coverings to school**
- **The prevalence of COVID-19 in school remains low**
- **Students should continue to take a lateral flow test twice weekly**
- **Upcoming events remain under review but at this stage will take place as planned**
- **School is closed to all students on Friday 3rd December**

Face coverings

On Sunday, the DfE issued new guidance to schools on face coverings. The new guidance – connected to the wider response to the Omicron Variant – states that:

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

We will be implementing this guidance from Tuesday 30th November. All students must bring two face coverings with them to school. Your child will be asked to wear a face covering in:

- **Corridors**
- **Assemblies**
- **The dining room when queuing for food**
- **The reception area**

They will not be required to wear a face covering in classrooms or outdoor spaces.

If your child is medically exempt, or wearing a face covering may cause them distress, please contact their Head of Year who will arrange for them to be issued with an exemption pass.

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Confirmed case update

The reintroduction of face coverings on a national level comes at a time when the prevalence of the virus in school and the local area is relatively low. We have had an average of three student cases per week during November. These cases are unconnected; they do not appear to stem from, or have led to, transmission in school.

A reminder that we will contact you, advising you to organise a PCR test for your child, if they are part of a group where there is evidence of a 'cluster' of cases.

Lateral flow testing

The importance of Lateral Flow testing has been re-emphasised by recent events. We will be distributing more home testing kits this week; please ensure your child is testing on a Sunday night and Wednesday night, and recording their result on www.testregister.co.uk.

Upcoming events

At this stage, upcoming events will take place as planned. Each will come with control measures and a relevant risk assessment.

- Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening – Thursday 9th December
- Winter Concert – Tuesday 14th December
- Student Christmas Lunch – Thursday 16th December

Each event will remain under review; we will contact you if changes become necessary.

School closure – Friday 3rd December

Finally, a reminder that school will be closed to all students this coming Friday 3rd December. This is one of the five INSET days scheduled across the course of the year. For reference, the remaining days are scheduled on Friday 24th June, Wednesday 20th July and Thursday 21st July.

A reminder of the key points:

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Yours sincerely



Matthew Sadler
Head