



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL

29th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

On Saturday 27th November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while the scientists gather more information. These measures, detailed below, will be kept under review as the situation develops.

Face Coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt. The school does have a list of the pupils who are exempt from wearing masks and I would ask, if that you have not already informed of us that your child does not wish to wear a mask, that you inform the relevant Head of Year.

Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and pupils to test twice weekly using a lateral flow device (LFD). The number of tests carried out by our pupils at home has steadily declined over the term and so I would encourage all pupils to return to the regime of testing using a LFD on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Vaccination

The Government is encouraging all eligible staff and students aged 12 and over to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. The Government views vaccination as the best defence against COVID-19 as vaccines help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

Guidance on contact tracing and isolation

The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19 infection

Anyone with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine. If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you should stay at home and self-isolate. If you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months [you are not required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#).

Testing pupils on site when they return in January



Principal: Mr J Young
Vice Principal: Mrs L Hunter

The Learning Campus, Redhouse Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN25 2ND
Tel: 01793 705400 Fax: 01793 707596
email: admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL

The Government would like all secondary schools to prepare to test their pupils once on-site on return in January as testing all pupils in school boosts testing participation and will help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the school holidays. Pupils should then continue to test in line with government guidelines twice a week.

At the moment I am not sure whether the testing has to be carried out prior to pupils returning or can be carried out in the week they that they return. I will inform parents of the details of this testing when I have been provided with more information.

There is obviously a lot of speculation in the news regarding the new variant and what restrictions will be put in place. I will continue to keep parents updated with any new developments.

Yours sincerely

Mr Young
Principal
Abbey Park School



Principal: Mr J Young
Vice Principal: Mrs L Hunter

The Learning Campus, Redhouse Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN25 2ND
Tel: 01793 705400 Fax: 01793 707596
email: admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL



Principal: Mr J Young
Vice Principal: Mrs L Hunter

The Learning Campus, Redhouse Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN25 2ND
Tel: 01793 705400 Fax: 01793 707596
email: admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk