

29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this communication finds you and your family well.

Yesterday the Department for Education communicated their decision **to make face coverings compulsory in corridors and communal areas from Tuesday 30 November 2021**, following the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom. This follows the Prime Minister's announcement of Saturday 27 November in which he announced new temporary measures designed to restrict the transmission of the new variant.

I do want to take this opportunity to share with you that this is a fast-moving situation and, whilst we will do everything possible to communicate accurate information in a timely manner, it is the case that the guidance is very much in an evolutionary stage.

At this present time visitors, members of staff and students (except those who are exempt) will be required to wear a face covering at all times, whilst inside the college building, with the exception of inside the classroom and whilst they are eating or drinking.

The protocol for the wearing of face coverings is as follows:

1. Face coverings should cover the wearer's nose and mouth and loop around each ear. Face coverings must be appropriate: bandanas and scarves are not permitted.
2. Face coverings should be provided by the wearer.
3. Face coverings should not be worn when damp/wet. It is expected that more than one face covering is brought into the college each day and that these are changed and washed regularly. Each face covering must be in a clear, resealable zip-lock plastic bag which should itself, be kept in a bag.
4. In line with government guidance at this time, face coverings will not be worn in the classroom. However, students can choose to wear a face covering in a classroom if they prefer.
5. Students and members of staff should place their face covering in position prior to entering the college building.
6. Students should wear a face covering when working in communal areas.
7. The wearer should refrain from touching the covering/their face as much as possible. Where the wearer wishes to remove their face covering to eat, for example at break time or at lunch time, they may do so.
8. Please note that where a student is unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons they should speak to a member of the Alliance team.

I recognise that there will be mixed feelings regarding this message, however it's important that we all reflect upon the reasons for this change in guidance. Being part of a community means that we need to think of others, as well as our own wants and needs. If we all commit to these new measures, I am hopeful that further, more stringent, restrictions can be avoided in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns about this please do not hesitate to contact your relevant Head of Alliance.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lee Styles
Principal