



CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL

Carleton High School

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29th November 2021

Re: Headteacher update - face coverings

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Saturday 27th November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. In addition to this, the Department for Education released yesterday updated guidance for schools.

Face Coverings

The government has published the following information: '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'.

Therefore, **students and staff will be required to wear face coverings in communal areas in school from tomorrow**. Students will also be required to wear a face covering whilst using **designated school transport**.

Students will not be required to wear face coverings in classrooms, when they are outside or when they are sat eating or drinking.

Exemptions

Some students may be exempt from wearing face coverings because of a physical or mental illness, impairment, or disability. The same exemptions apply in education settings and we will of course be sensitive to these needs.

If you feel your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please contact the school via the usual channels so we can discuss this with you.

Covid-19 home testing

As a reminder, the government advice remains that students and school staff should continue to conduct lateral flow tests at home on a twice-weekly basis and to report test results via the government's test and trace service. As a school, we continue to request that students perform the tests on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and in the event of a positive test, please also inform school. You must then book a PCR test as soon as possible and contact school with the result.

Symptoms of COVID-19

As a reminder, the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Should your child display any of these symptoms, they should stay at home, self-isolate and arrange a PCR test and inform school as soon as possible.

Vaccination

All students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They 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.

If your child has not taken up the previous offer of a vaccination at the school you can still book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

On-site Testing – January 2022

The government would like secondary schools to prepare to test students on-site when they return to school after the Christmas break. Testing all pupils in school boosts testing participation and will help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the school holidays. We are currently awaiting additional guidance and will communicate our plans with you in due course.

We greatly appreciate your continued support. As always, should you have any queries please contact school via the normal channels.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Cross
Headteacher