

November 2021

Dear Parents

In light of the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday evening, and in continued liaison with local Public Health Teams and councils, we will be increasing our Covid-19 safety measures in the academy.

**Please note that between now and the end of term, we will maintain the following measures; these remain critical in our attempt to minimise the spread of Covid-19, and we ask for your support in this matter:**

- **Face coverings:**
  - We are asking all students (unless medically exempt) to wear face coverings inside the academy – in communal areas, such as corridors and the canteen and in classrooms. Please support us by ensuring students attend school with face coverings.
  - Face coverings must also be worn on all school transport;
- **Extending daily LFD testing** for close or household contacts (identified by NHS Test and Trace) while awaiting PCR results. So, if your child is identified as a close contact through NHS Test and Trace they will be asked to test with LFT for 5 days (or up to 7 days if the 5th day falls at a weekend). Close contacts identified through NHS Test and Trace are still asked to undertake a PCR test;
- Increased access to LFDs so that **daily testing** can take place where case rates remain particularly high. To do this we will issue additional test kits to year groups where there are high numbers of positive cases;
- Reinforcing **social distancing** measures. This will mean that:
  - Year group assemblies will be conducted virtually;
  - Mixed year group indoor lunchtime clubs are suspended;
- As the weather turns colder, we continue to recommend that students wear a base layer under their school shirts because the ventilation in school will be maximised;
- All students will be proactively encouraged to hand sanitise throughout the day;
- Please ensure that your child is Lateral Flow Testing at least twice a week. Your child can get additional tests from the school, or you can order them as a household online (<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>);
- Daytime enhanced cleaning of the school site will be maintained, particularly touch points such as doors and banister rails.

**Please also note that if there is a rise in positive cases in an individual year group, we may need to reinstate further enhanced measures, and this may well be at short notice.**



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## How can parents/carers help to support less infection in school?

- Encouraging higher participation in twice weekly LFT. This can make a huge difference and has, in some cases, identified 25-30 asymptomatic cases per school per week;
- Support the school by observing isolation and getting PCR tests when asked;
- Adhering to new requests for mitigation and encouraging eligible family members to get vaccinated/boosters;
- Observe close contact advice and do not send children to school with symptoms of the virus

[Read further guidance for close contacts here.](#)

If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 at any time, please ensure that they isolate and book a test for them, even if they have already taken a test. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

Further guidance on COVID-19 and what you need to do can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

### Covid-19 Vaccination for 12-15 year olds.

You can book Covid vaccination appointments for your child via the government website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-1st-or-2nd-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

The following ages can now use this service for:

- 17 years and 9 months old and over – 1st & 2nd dose
- 16 to 17 years and 8 months old – 1st dose only
- 12 – 15 year old – 1st dose only

Please note, people are not eligible for the vaccination if they have had COVID-19 within the last 28 day

### Return to school in January

You will be aware that the Government had asked that all students are tested on return to school following the Christmas break. To prepare for and facilitate this there will be an additional INSET day on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

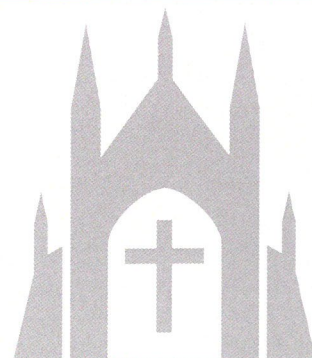
Students in Year 11 and 13 will return to the academy on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, undertaking a test on-site prior to going to lessons. Further details will be provided in due course.

Students in Year 7-10 and Year 12 will have 2 days of remote learning and will be asked to attend the academy at specific times for testing. Further details will be provided in due course.

Yours sincerely



Paul McKeown  
Principal



The Bishop of Winchester Academy

Principal Paul McKeown, MA (Ed), BA (Hons), NPQH

This is an exempt charity.