



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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@MagnaAcademy

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope all of our families enjoyed some well-deserved quality time together over the festive period. You may have heard in the news that it is expected that the spring term will be extremely challenging for schools. In light of this, the government has taken the decision to temporarily recommend that face coverings be worn in classrooms when we return for students in Year 7 and above due to the recent Omicron variant surge.

Face Coverings

While there are obvious drawbacks to the use of face coverings in classrooms; this new government advice is short term, only to support students and staff, as they return to the academy and builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings in communal areas of all settings.

The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until at least 26th January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed by the government.

It is important to note that wearing face coverings in classrooms is not compulsory. It is strongly encouraged in the short term through national government advice.

Operation challenges

One of the biggest problems that all schools will face is the likelihood of high levels of staff absence caused by the prevalence of the Omicron variant. Whilst all of us at Magna Academy will continue to do our very best to minimise the impact on students, if operational challenges caused by workforce shortages occur we will implement a flexible approach to learning. Flexible delivery involves utilising all of our available teaching and non-teaching workforce to maximise on-site education for as many students as possible while we flexibly deliver provision either on-site or remotely to some students. I can assure all of our families that these types of measures would only be short-term and used as an absolute last resort.

Self-isolation period

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and students do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to the academy from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Testing on return

As explained in my previous letters, the government has asked that all secondary schools offer their students one Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test onsite, at the beginning of the spring term. Asymptomatic testing is a critical tool to help prevent transmission of COVID-19. Testing is important because as many as one in three people who contract the virus show no symptoms, so could be spreading the virus unknowingly. Full details of testing, when students should return and how to provide consent can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal