



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you following the government's announcement of changes to the guidance relating to the additional measures that schools have been asked to implement during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Face-masks

As you will be aware, the government have recently changed their guidance in relation to face-masks in schools. As a result, we are no longer requiring students to wear masks in lessons. Students and staff are still asked to wear face-masks in corridors and other parts of the school building.

From Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, government guidance will no longer require students and staff to wear face-masks in corridors and circulation spaces. Given the high number of Covid-19 cases in the local area and in local schools, we would like to ask our students and staff to continue wearing face-masks. We believe this is the best way to protect our school and community, since we know the Omicron variant spreads rapidly and that people can be infected multiple times. I would therefore like to ask that you encourage students to wear face-masks to school unless they are exempt.

### Changes to minimum isolation period for confirmed cases

As explained in my previous letter, the government have reduced the minimum isolation period from seven days to five days. As a result, people self-isolating with Covid-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6.

### Lateral flow testing

Please continue to test twice weekly at home. Any students who are a close contact of a confirmed case should test every day for 7 days while continuing to attend school as normal. Students and staff should report results immediately online: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Thank you for all your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

**Principal**