

Our ref: KIN

Date: 29th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you regarding COVID-19 and the Government announcements that we have had over the weekend that will mean some day-to-day changes in our school.

On Saturday, the Prime Minister announced that because of a variant of concern called Omicron, we in England, are introducing some temporary measures, mainly wearing face coverings in shops and on public transport. On Sunday, there was another announcement that students in secondary schools in England should wear face coverings in school communal areas, but not in classrooms.

Face Coverings

At Callerton Academy, from Tuesday 30th November, students, staff and visitors will have to wear face coverings in communal areas for at least the next three weeks, which takes us up to the Christmas holidays. For us, this means wearing face coverings in corridors, the Dining Hall and in the Assembly Hall during assemblies. When outside at lunch and break or when sat down at tables, students do not need to wear their face coverings. Face coverings are not required in lessons, and staff will support students with when to remove or put on their face coverings.

Students should bring in their own face coverings every day. As they are taking them on and off, it would be a good idea for students to have a small bag for the face covering to be kept in when not being worn. I would recommend that students bring in at least two face coverings to school as they can break or get lost. We have disposable face coverings in school that will be given to students on the off chance that they forget their own.

If students are exempt from wearing a face covering for medical reasons, please contact admin@callertonacademy.org.uk with evidence of this so that we can give your child a pass to show staff and put in their planner.

Katie Innes Principal

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It is an expectation that everybody wears face coverings on public transport and in shops from Tuesday 30th November for at least three weeks. We will talk to students about this today, but please discuss this with your child at home.

LFD Testing at Home Twice a Week

You should continue as families to test twice a week at home. Please report your results (either, positive, negative or void) on the [NHS website](#) and with the school via this [link](#).

LFD On-Site Testing in January

On Friday, The Government announced that schools will need to do a single on-site LFD test in January for students' return to school after the Christmas holidays. I will send more information about this over the coming weeks.

Vaccination – from The Government Update

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. 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.

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#).

Contact Tracing and Isolation

The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace and told to isolate.

Return from Holidays Guidance

There has been changes to the list of countries that are classed as 'red countries' for travel. Additionally, there are new rules regarding PCR tests for returners from holiday. There is an article about this [here](#).

I will write to you again this week with my bi-weekly update.

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Registered Office: Gosforth Academy, Knightsbridge, Great North Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2JH

As usual, thank you for your cooperation and support. Please ring us on 0191 605 3835 or email us at admin@callertonacademy.org.uk if you have any questions, we are here to help.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Innes

**Principal
Callerton Academy**

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