



TFO/AT

4th January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your family are keeping well and that you enjoyed the winter break.

As you may already be aware, the Government has released new guidance which recommends that secondary school students wear face coverings in the classroom and within teaching spaces, upon returning to school this term.

This is to help limit transmission of Coronavirus – particularly in light of the recent Omicron variant surge – and importantly, to minimise disruption to learning as much as possible, which continues to be our main priority.

The re-introduction of face coverings within teaching settings is said to be a temporary measure which the Government will keep under continuous review. There will be a full assessment of the guidance on 26th January, at which point the wider Plan B regulations for England will also be reviewed.

Your child will therefore be expected to wear a face covering inside the classroom from now until at least the 26th January, unless they are exempt. We ask that any exemption is discussed with your child's tutor, that way we can issue them with a lanyard if they do not already have one, this will prevent multiple staff questioning them for not wearing a face covering as they will be able to see that they are exempt.

This measure will go alongside our existing safety protocols which includes wearing masks in communal areas and corridors across the school, hand sanitiser in every room, increased hygiene messages to all students and a one way system that has been in operation since October half term.

If you have any issues accessing an appropriate face covering for your child, please do let us know at the earliest opportunity and we will endeavour to provide one for you. However, I wanted to ensure you were aware of this new guidance and the College's expectations in advance, so that your child comes to school this week with an appropriate face covering. Your support in helping us to implement this is greatly appreciated.

A reminder of our return to school arrangements taken from our letter dated 17th December 2021.

The Department for Education has announced that we will need to be testing all students (that either consent themselves or whose parents do so on their behalf) before they enter the classroom in January. We have done this now twice before so plans are well in hand to enable this to happen smoothly and in a timely manner. As in previous starts to term during the pandemic, we will have a staggered start to ensure we can test close to 1400 students across the first three days of term. I would ask you to note the schedule below for the students' return during the first week of term to enable the testing to occur in a timely manner. However due to a change in recent government guidance, even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Wednesday 5th January 2022 - Year 11 and Sixth Form Students

If your son or daughter travels to school by bus they should arrive at the college as normal.

If your son or daughter does not catch a bus to school can they please arrive at the times stated below for their tutor group.

Sixth form students will return home after their covid test and will start school on Thursday 6th January.

<u>Year 11</u> 11 HAW - 10.30 11 HOU B - 10.35 11 KIT - 10:40 11 KIT B - 10:45 11 HOU - 10.50 11 HAY - 10.55 11 FOX - 11.00 11 FOX B - 11.05	<u>Sixth Form</u> 12 SSW HAW - 12:30 12 JED KIT - 12:35 12 SSH HOU - 12:40 12 TMC HAY - 12:45 12 RMO FOX - 12:50 13 KBA HAW - 12:55 13 PMO KIT - 13:00 13 EPE HOU - 13.05 13 PTR HAY - 13.10 13 MHO FOX - 13:15
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Thursday 6th January 2022 - Year 10 and Year 8 Students

If your son or daughter travels to school by bus they should arrive at the college as normal.

If your son or daughter does not catch a bus to school can they please arrive at the times stated below for their tutor group.

<u>Year 10</u> 10 HAW - 11:30 10 KIT - 11:35 10 KIT B - 11:40 10 HOU - 11:45 10 HAW B - 11:50 10 HAY - 11:55 10HAY B - 11:55 10 FOX - 12:00	<u>Year 8</u> 8 HAW - 12:15 8 HAW B - 12:20 8 KIT - 12:25 8 HOU - 12:35 8 HOU B - 12:40 8 HAY - 12:45 8 HAY B - 12:50 8 FOX - 12:55
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Friday 7th January 2022 - Year 7 and Year 9 Students

If your son or daughter travels to school by bus they should arrive at the college as normal.

If your son or daughter does not catch a bus to school can they please arrive at the times stated below for their tutor group.

<u>Year 7</u> 7 HAW - 11:30 7 HAW B - 11:35 7 KIT - 11:45 7 KIT B - 11:45 7 HOU - 11:50 7 HAY - 12:00 7 FOX - 12:10 7 FOX B - 11:55	<u>Year 9</u> 9 HAW - 12:15 9 HAW B - 12:20 9 KIT - 12:25 9 KIT B - 12:30 9 HOU - 12:35 9 HOU B - 12:35 9 HAY - 12:40 9 HAY B - 12:45 9 FOX - 12:50 9 FOX B - 12:55
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Ensuring the health and safety of our students, staff and wider school community is essential. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation, as we embark on a new year and new term which we hope will be a positive one, despite some of the inevitable challenges ahead.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tristan Muller-Forster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tristan Muller-Forster
Associate Principal