



Bristol Free School
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Headteacher: Mrs S. King

30 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid Update

The Prime Minister announced on Saturday the temporary introduction of new measures as a result of the Omicron variant. These measures are precautionary, while the variant is tracked and assessed. This was followed by updated guidance for schools, issued late on Sunday. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops.

I have briefed students during tutor time this morning to explain the new rules for schools, which will be in place at least until the Christmas holidays. My message is optimistic as there are still many unknowns around Omicron, but I have stressed how important it is that everyone in school complies with these early measures and new rules to minimise the impact and protect us all through the winter season.

Face Masks Compulsory in Communal Areas for Staff, Students and Visitors

The new Government guidance for secondary schools now requires face coverings to be worn by all students, staff and visitors when moving around the premises and in communal areas, which at BFS includes corridors, Sixth Form Common Room, Study Room and the Dining Hall except when eating. Face coverings are also required in practical lessons when students are required to move around, but in other classrooms, face coverings are optional.

Please make sure your child comes to school with at least one clean cloth face covering. **If students do not have their own face covering they will be issued with a disposable one, chargeable at £1 from Wednesday 1 December.** This is not to make a profit, but to act as a deterrent and to encourage students to bring their own. Our students are rightly very concerned about sustainability and the environmental impact of disposable face coverings and so we need to discourage and limit their use. Any students exempt from wearing a face covering will be required to wear their school issued exemption lanyard at all times.

Other Covid Moderations

It is well known that ventilation is key to minimising the spread of Covid and so therefore doors and windows are open at school. In class, if they are cold, students may keep their coats on, but they are not allowed to wear hats.

We are continuing to do as much as possible in school, which can be done safely and we will moderate any activity deemed to be high risk. For this reason our upcoming Music Extravaganza event will be online, to avoid mixing large groups of people from outside school on site. More details for this event will follow.

Testing

Thank you to all those who are supporting twice weekly testing using Lateral Flow Tests at home. We continue to ask students to test on Sundays and Wednesdays. Reminders are sent out from www.testregister.co.uk to help with this. Even if the reminder does not arrive by email, students should still test and report their result.

Additional test kits have just been given out. We have plenty of supplies for all who need them, students can ask their tutor or at Student Services if they need more packs. At the end of term we will distribute another box of kits for use during the Christmas break.

In the meantime, please discuss this letter with your child and make sure they have a face covering every day in school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs S King

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S King', written in a cursive style.

Headteacher