29th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, I want to thank you for your continued support this term. Thanks to the vigilance of our staff and families, we have managed to keep COVID cases under control and, as a result, students have enjoyed the freedom and advantages of our current arrangements. We had a higher take-up for vaccinations than many other local schools, which has also been reassuring.

I wrote to you in the Greensheet on Friday about some changes we are now making, starting this week, to ensure that we keep everyone as safe as possible in the run-up to the holidays. This is due to a rise in cases and an ‘outbreak’ in year 7. I want to reassure you that we are continuing to monitor numbers of cases and we are working closely with the local authority and Public Health to ensure that we keep your daughters as safe as possible.

In addition, the latest news about the Omicron variant, has prompted us to put in place further adjustments and have listed these below. We will be continuing to wear face masks in public areas, and you will be aware that this has now become a DfE directive from today.

1. **Face masks in classrooms:** Due to the rising number of current cases, particularly in year 7, **we have decided to reintroduce masks in classrooms, as advised by Public Health, for a short period of time**. It is not what we would have hoped for but we need to be cautious and careful.
2. **Attendance:** I am asking parents to be particularly vigilant at the moment. I**f your child has any symptoms, including a cold or a headache, please keep them at home** and ensure that they have a **PCR test. Do not send your child to school unless you have a negative result.**
3. **Siblings:** As another precautionary measure, **we are asking the siblings of students who have tested positive to remain at home, as advised by the Public Health authority**. We have seen a pattern of siblings testing positive up to ten days later than other members of their family, sometimes leading to further cases in form groups and teaching classes. In order to prevent this, we will be asking siblings of students who have tested positive to remain at home for ten days, taking a PCR test on the final day before their sibling is due to return to school.

Please continue to ensure that your child brings a clean mask to school each day and that she is testing with the Lateral Flow test kit on a twice weekly basis. Please encourage your daughter to continue to use the school’s ‘one way’ system.

I know that some of the above measures will be lead to disappointment, particularly when students have enjoyed a return to a less-restricted form of school life and I want to acknowledge how hard students, staff and parents have worked this term.

This was not the message that I wanted to send to our school community but it is important that we build on everyone’s hard work and commitment and ensure that we all have a safe and happy end to the term. Thank you again for all your support.

Yours faithfully



Ms H Marriott

Headteacher