

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 www.oaklandscatholicschool.org

✉ oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

29 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The safety and wellbeing of all students and staff remains a priority in school.

Late on Sunday 28 November, we received a communication from the DfE updating its guidance for schools on control measures necessary to help reduce transmission of COVID 19, following the discovery of the Omicron variant. This included an update on face coverings and isolation.

Face Coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and students in Year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Students should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport.

Therefore, from Tuesday 30 November all students must wear a suitable face covering when on school transport, when entering and leaving the school and when in corridors and other communal areas, for example queuing in the dining hall. We will encourage students to wear face coverings when outside and in close contact. Students may remove face coverings in all classrooms.

In addition to providing a mask, please can you ensure that you provide a small plastic bag so that the face covering can be safely stored when it is not being worn.

We will be discussing this with all students during tutor time early this week and will continue to remind students regularly of how to wear, handle and store their face coverings.

If your child is exempt from wearing a mask and you have not previously made us aware of this, please contact Mrs Bonnington and we will discuss your child's individual needs. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, we can provide assistance with the supply of face coverings.

As the wearing of masks again becomes part of everyday life, I hope that this change can easily be adopted by all students. If a student has forgotten their mask, then replacements can be purchased at a cost of 50p each. A cash payment will be accepted, or the amount will be charged through the student's Scopay account.

Testing

With a potential new variant, it is more important than ever to ensure that students continue with the twice weekly LFT process (Wednesday and Sunday) and report positive cases to the NHS and school. We provide these kits every three weeks, but your child should see Mr Bamford if they have run out.

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. At this juncture it is not clear who will be responsible for identifying close contacts in school settings should it be necessary.

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine. 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 the NHS website: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus/covid-19/vaccination)

I appreciate that this is not the news you would all want; measures taken now may prevent a more serious issue later. The Government has promised to review the position at the end of the school term.

I would like to thank you in advance of your support with this additional safety measure.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher