

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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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

3 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will all no doubt be aware, with the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, some safety measures have been reintroduced taking effect from last Tuesday (30 November), for example, the mandatory wearing of face coverings in shops and on public transport (with the exception of those who are exempt).

From a school perspective, the guidance states 'face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils in Year 7 and above unless they are exempt'. The latest guidance confirms face coverings are not necessary outside.

The practice of the wearing of face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, stairways and the dining hall has been continued by some students throughout the pandemic. Of course, anyone who feels safer wearing a face covering in classrooms will be fully supported in doing so, though at present this is not part of the DfE guidance.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please inform Mrs Bonnington, Deputy Head, if you haven't already, and we can update our records.

Please may I also remind those of you whose children travel to school by bus that they need to wear a face covering to travel, unless they are exempt. Bus companies may refuse passengers if they are not wearing a face covering (unless exempt).

The situation regarding the Omicron variant is constantly evolving. If further updates to DfE guidance occur in forthcoming days and weeks, I will be in touch regarding the implications for us.

Thank you all so much for the way in which you have cooperated with us throughout the pandemic. The most recent guidance does state that staff and students should continue with twice weekly LFD testing, and we would ask for your continued support with this. No doubt you will also be aware that all students need to be tested in school at the start of next term. This will necessitate a phased start. I will write to you again next week providing the details related to the in-school testing in January.

End of Term Events

At the time of writing, we are continuing to plan our Christmas season events. We sincerely hope that all of these will go ahead. Our students have been so resilient and mature in the face of so many challenges and changes and we are incredibly proud of them. Hopefully, we can progress towards Christmas safely and have a well-earned and happy festive period.

If your child is in Year 7, you will have received a letter last month about the Carol Service on Wednesday 15 December ([Year-7-Carol-Service-Letter-2021.pdf \(oaklandscatholicschool.org\)](#)). Please ensure you have completed the online form confirming attendance at this event as soon as possible. [Carol Service Consent Form](#)

Flu Vaccinations (Years 7 – 11)

A reminder that the flu vaccinations will be taking place in school on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 December for all students in Years 7-11. Information has been sent out to all parents via separate communication. A link to this can be found here [Flu Vaccination Parent Letter 2021](#).

It is very important that you complete the online consent form as soon as possible so that the NHS Immunisation Team and the school can finalise the details. [Flu Vaccination Consent Form](#) (Unique code for Oaklands is SH137345)

OFPA Raffle

The Oaklands Friends and Parents' Association are holding an online Christmas raffle. Prizes are special Christmas Treat Hampers and tickets are available to buy via your child's Scopay account, costing £1.00 each.

Tickets can be purchased until the end of the day on Monday 13 December and the draw will be made before the end of term.

If you are able to donate any festive goods for the hampers, please send these into school with your child, in a bag labelled OFPA.

Thank you for your support with this.

HAF Christmas Holiday Provision

We are again running the Holiday and Food programme for students in **Year 5 and 6**, this is primarily aimed at families in receipt of free school meals, although we do have some flexibility around this. The programme runs from Monday 20 through to 23 December inclusive. Please see the attached flyer which provides information about the provision. We would advise early booking as there are only 30 places available.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher