



**“Be Inspired & Achieve Together”**

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you the Government has announced that face masks are now to be worn in classrooms in England's secondary schools to reduce the spread of the Omicron variant. Before Christmas all students were required to wear face coverings when walking around the academy buildings or in communal areas, this has now been extended to include classrooms too, meaning **face coverings should now be worn in the classrooms and academy buildings every day until further notice.**

We expect all children to arrive at the Academy each day with a face covering and wear them whenever they are inside academy buildings and classrooms. Please ensure your child has one, and ideally a spare one too. If your child is exempt, we will need you to notify your child's Head of Year and we will issue them with an exemption card. We will have some spare disposable coverings in the Academy but cannot distribute these daily to students, hence the need for students to bring their own, a little like they would a pen/pencil. The face covering needs to be part of their Academy equipment in January. We will have to sanction those who repeatedly do not arrive with a face covering if they are not exempt.

This reintroduction of face coverings aims to protect public health, limit the spread of the virus and address concerns about schools remaining open for face-to-face learning this coming term.

Please ensure you are also familiar with the arrangements for your child's return to learning at the start of this term and the arrangements, for children whose parents/carers have provided consent, for attending our on-site covid testing before the return to lessons in the classroom. These details can be found here: [Return to school arrangements](#). Students will need to wear a face covering when they visit the academy for their on-site covid test so please ensure they come equipped when they are tested too.

I do hope you and your families had an enjoyable time over the festive period and I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I thank you in advance for your support and co-operation.

Kind regards

**Matt Robertson**

Principal