



Beauchamps High School

Business and Enterprise
Centre of Excellence for Learning



29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As I am sure you will be aware, over the weekend the Government produced information for all schools on new measures, in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures are to be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while the Government gathers more information. These new measures come into effect tomorrow. I have summarised the key changes below:

- Face coverings need to be worn in all communal areas 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, unless they are exempt. Students do not need to wear a mask in lessons, but of course may do so if they wish. If you feel your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please contact your relevant Year Leader to discuss the reasons for the exemption.
- 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.

The news over the weekend is concerning. I know many of you will be anxious about how this will affect the run-in to Christmas and your plans for the festive period with friends and family. Of course, as a school our main job is to educate our students, but my priority must always be the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

To that end, after a great deal of discussion with the Senior Leadership Team and with Headteachers at other schools in the district, it is with a heavy heart that I have made some further adjustments in the school, aimed at protecting our community and also to minimise the risk of infection and isolations, especially over the festive period. These measures include cancelling all large gatherings such as assemblies and all Christmas performances. If you have already purchased tickets for these performances, a full refund will be issued and can be collected from the Finance Office.

Y11 presentation evening and the Year 10 parent literacy workshops will be postponed until the new year and revised dates will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Our 6th Form exams will continue to run this week as planned, as will the student Christmas lunch on Wednesday.

Can I please remind you that all students should continue to be using Lateral Flow Tests at home twice a week and please record the results in the usual way.

The Government also announced late Friday evening that all pupils should complete a Lateral Flow Test in school before we return in January. In order to facilitate this, we plan to run onsite testing for pupils in the first 2 days back after the holidays, similar to how we did this earlier this year. We will be asking Years 10,11, 12 and 13 to attend school for testing only on Tuesday 4th January and return to school for normal lessons on Wednesday 5th. Year 7,8 and 9 to attend school for testing only on Wednesday 5th January and return to school on Thursday 6th for normal lessons. We will send further details of this in the coming weeks but I thought you would appreciate knowing at the earliest opportunity to plan for possible child care issues you may have with this staggered start to term in January.

Free School Meal vouchers will be provided to eligible students to cover the Christmas break.

As we have done in recent years, school will end at 12.15pm on the last day of term, Friday 17 December. We will do our utmost to ensure that the end of term is a festive one, and despite being unable to get together in large groups, our staff will be sharing as much Christmas cheer as possible! Christmas jumper day on Friday 10 December will be an example of this.

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This was not the letter I had hoped to send out at this stage of the term. We had so many festive activities planned and I so very much hoped to be supporting these events face to face with our parent/carers over the coming weeks. Hopefully there will be no significant changes to Covid numbers which will result in any further changes to school life here at Beauchamps and we can all look forward to a safe and happy Christmas period.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mat Harper', written in a cursive style.

Mat Harper
Headteacher