

To all GC students and parents-carers

Dear all,

Happy New Year to all Greenhead College students and parents-carers!

I hope you enjoyed a restful, peaceful break. Let's hope 2022 is an excellent year for us all.

As promised, I am writing to you ahead of the start of term with some updates based on information received in the last couple days concerning the Omicron variant.

Face coverings

As you may have heard, on Sunday, 2 January the Department for Education announced that face coverings should be worn in **classrooms** by all students in schools and colleges (unless they are exempt). This builds on the previous iteration of the guidance, which stated that face coverings should be worn by students in communal areas.

This measure will be in place until **Wednesday, 26 January**, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed by the Government.

Therefore, please remember to bring a face covering to College on Wednesday, preferably a re-usable one.

Self-isolation period

Since Wednesday, 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to **7 days** in most circumstances, unless it's not possible to test for any reason.

Individuals must now take LFD tests on **day 6 and day 7** of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.

If both these test results are negative, and the individual does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to College from **day 8**. However, anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

Further information is available in the [guidance for households with possible/confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Lateral Flow Device (LFD testing)

Students should take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return on Wednesday, 5 January, then continue to test twice-weekly at home. We will, as far as possible, continue to make LFD tests available to students to enable them to test as the term continues.

Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated or young people up to the age of 18-years-and-6-months, and who have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for **7 days** and **continue to attend College as normal**, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

COVID-19 vaccinations

In response to the threat from the Omicron variant, the JCVI has advised that a Pfizer booster vaccine should be offered to all young people aged 16-to-17-years-old. The NHS will shortly issue details of how eligible young people can get their booster.

If any further updates are announced, I will update you all as soon as possible.

My best wishes for the year ahead,

Simon