

Date: 30th November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing to today to give an update on the Covid-19 precautions we are taking at the academy with the aim of providing reassurances about our approach and to reiterate the school is still a safe place to attend. Our students have been brilliant since September and we don't want COVID to affect the great learning that is taking place.

Update on Covid-19 precautions

As you may know, the Government has introduced some new Covid rules in response to the 'Omicron' variant. You can [read more about this here](#) or by searching for 'Omicron Covid rules UK.'

The new rules include:

- Adults and older children are required to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport
- School staff and secondary students are required to wear face coverings in busy areas of school
- If it is suspected you have the Omicron variant of Covid-19, you will be required to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have a vaccine
- Anyone arriving in the UK from abroad will require a PCR test within 48 hours and will need to self-isolate until they have a result
- People travelling from 'red-list' countries will be required to quarantine for two weeks in a hotel on arriving in the UK.

What does this mean for the academy?

The first thing to say is that it remains safe to come to school. We have lots of precautions in place which are designed to reduce the risk for everyone, and to reduce the spread of Covid-19 within our community. We will be using this announcement as a good opportunity to check again the precautions we have in place.

Face Coverings

We will be following the government's guidance on face coverings. Starting now, all secondary students (and staff) are required to wear a face covering in communal areas at school (unless they are exempt).

Whilst there is no requirement, students (and staff) are permitted to wear their face covering in classrooms too.

Principal - Paul McEvoy

King William Street, Salford Quays, M50 2UQ

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Please can you ensure that your child arrives to school with a face mask every day. If there is a particular reason why your child should be exempt please provide this in writing.

Good hygiene and cleaning

We will also be reminding everyone about the importance of following the basic rules of good hygiene:

- Washing your hands
- Cleaning your surroundings
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.

Testing

Please continue to support your child to test at home, twice weekly (if they consent). This is a very powerful tool in reducing the spread of Covid-19 by people who do not have symptoms.

Vaccination

Vaccination, and in some instances vaccination boosters, are now available for all adults and children over 12 who consent. Please support your child to receive the vaccine if you as a family consent. This will help to reduce the risk for everyone.

Assemblies and events

All assemblies will continue to take place virtually. Where there is an in-school event year groups will not mix, face coverings will be worn and classes will socially distance.

We will also be thinking carefully about how we can make our upcoming trips safer by:

- *Asking attendees to take lateral flow test prior to coming*
- *Asking attendees to consider wearing a face covering*
- *Maximising our social distancing*

We will provide further information on specific trips in due course and will continue to review this in line with local COVID rates.

Essential visits to the academy

As an additional precaution we will be reducing the number of outside visitors to the school, asking that only essential visitors come into the academy.

Over the holidays

We are all looking forward to the upcoming Christmas holiday, and for many families this is a time to travel to see friends and family.

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As this may increase the likelihood of spreading or catching Covid-19, we are encouraging all secondary students (and staff) who consent to continue testing twice weekly throughout their time off, and should they receive a positive test to [request a PCR test](#) as soon as possible.

Likewise, should you or your child develop symptoms of Covid-19, we encourage you to request a PCR test as soon as possible. If it is suspected that you have the Omicron variant, NHS Test and Trace will ask you to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have had the vaccine.

Please also note that:

- Face coverings are now required for all adults and older children when visiting shops and on public transport.
- If you are planning on travelling abroad, please note that the rules have now changed and that if you enter the UK from a foreign country, you have two days to take a PCR test. While you are waiting for a result, you must self-isolate, whether you have been vaccinated or not.
- In response to the new variant, new countries have been added to the red-list. Please check the latest ['Red-list' country](#) list to see if this will impact on your plans.

Returning to school in January

The Government have asked that all secondary students (who consent) complete one on-site asymptomatic test when they return to school in January, and then continue to complete tests twice weekly at home. *We will provide further details about these arrangements in due course and there will be further opportunity for your child to consent should you wish this to happen.*

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please contact the school office on 0161 8866500 or email info@oasismediacityuk.org. Thank you as always for your understanding and support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P F McEvoy

Principal

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