



Moorside High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure that you will have been following the announcements in the press in relation to the new variant of COVID-19, Omicron, over the last few days. Clearly the news is of concern and, as you may be aware, as well as masks being reintroduced in shops and on public transport, the **DfE have also instructed schools to reintroduce masks in communal areas.**

The updated guidance states that from the week beginning 29th November:

“Face coverings should be **encouraged** to be worn in communal areas in all settings, by staff, visitors, and students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public transport unless they are exempt.”

In practical terms, and in line with the updated guidance for shops and public transport, this means that from Tuesday 30th November:

- When indoors, staff, students and visitors to the school should be **encouraged** to wear face coverings as they move around the school e.g., in corridors, social areas, etc.
- Students using public transport are required to wear a face covering unless they have an exemption.

NB: Face coverings are not required to be worn in classrooms, changing rooms or during music and drama rehearsals.

Following this announcement, we would really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to bring a face covering, preferably one which can be washed and reused. We want to do everything possible to protect our school community and prevent students having to remote learn. One of our school values is ‘Consideration’ and we know that TEAMMoorside will consider and work together to protect each other and our community.

Please can we also take this opportunity to ask that you continue to encourage your child to complete a lateral flow test twice per week (Sunday and Wednesday evening). If there are any of the classic symptoms, students should go for a PCR test. If your child receives a positive lateral flow or PCR, please inform us via MHScovidresults@consilium-at.com. We understand that anyone who is a close contact of a positive case of the new Omicron strain, regardless of vaccination status or age, will need to isolate for 10 days. It is not yet clear how this will be implemented and whether we will play any role in identifying close contacts. But we are working closely with Public Health and will keep you fully informed. If you are unsure, please do contact the school.

The government has said it will review the situation in three weeks’ time, which means this will be in place until Christmas at least.

Head Teacher: Mr C Davis • 57 Deans Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 0AP • Telephone: 0161 921 1045 • www.moorsidehigh.com





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Please rest assured, alongside the reintroduction of masks, we will continue to emphasise the following measures: the use of outdoor spaces for break and lunchtimes, ventilation in classrooms, handwashing expectations and lateral flow testing at home.

Alongside this latest guidance, schools are also required to ask Senior School pupils to take a lateral flow test in school before they return in January, following the Christmas break. We will be carrying out these tests and further details regarding this testing will be sent out later this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you fully informed.

Kind Regards

Mrs Ryles-Dean

Head of School



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