



29th November 2021

Church Road, Lydney
Gloucestershire, GL15 5DZ

T: 01594 843202

F: 01594 842025

E: info@thedeanacademy.org
www.thedeanacademy.org

Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus Update in light of new variant concerns

I am writing to you to make you aware of new guidance which was issued to schools yesterday in response to the identification of the new Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the UK. Whilst the news of Omicron may worry parents and students, I want to reassure the school community that we are well placed to respond to these new measures.

Whilst details regarding this new variant are being gathered the Department for Education wrote to schools to share a range of measures, which will be reviewed, in three weeks, at the end of this term.

These measures include:

- 1) Face coverings - face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all schools by staff, visitors and pupils or students in Year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.
- 2) Testing -all schools should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.
- 3) Contact Tracing – the current guidance on contact tracing remains in place. This means if a child tests positive their close contacts can remain at school unless they develop symptoms. NHS track and Trace will identify close contacts and request they take a precautionary PCR test. However, in this instance, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.
- 4) Vaccination – all eligible students and staff are encouraged to take up the vaccine, including boosters.

At The Dean Academy students take LFD tests routinely and wear face coverings in communal areas as standard already. Based on this, these new precautionary measures, mean that students and staff will see no changes to the way school runs on a day-to-day basis. We will revisit these expectations with students and staff today to ensure that, in light of the new guidance, all staff and students understand their renewed importance. I want to assure you that we are watching case numbers closely and will write to parents again should the situation worsen before the end of term.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand

Headteacher

RIB/TW – Covid update-291121

