

4 January 2022



Brockington College

A Church of England Academy

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Confirmation of government updates and the return to school

Happy New Year to all students and their families and my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022. I am writing this afternoon to clarify several aspects of the return to school, following recent government updates.

Face masks

As you will be aware, in the final few weeks of last term, staff, students and visitors were required to wear a face covering in communal areas in response to the news of the existence of the Omicron variant in the UK. From today, Tuesday 4 January, the Department for Education is also *recommending that face coverings should be worn in classrooms and teaching spaces where students in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only and will be reviewed on the 26 January, in line with the review on Plan B measures. Therefore, please ensure that your child brings a face covering into school on a daily basis, unless exempt.*

If visiting the school, we would ask that you bring a face covering with you and carry out an LFD test at home before attending the school site.

Return to school testing

If parents/carers have completed the consent form, students should attend for on-site testing this week on their designated day and time slot. If not attending for on-site testing, students should complete an LFD test at home, on the day prior to returning to school, and log on the NHS and school website. Students will then be asked to continue to test twice weekly at home.

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

Self-isolation

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 seven days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day six and day seven 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 six of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day seven.

Daily testing for close contacts

Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should now take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Uniform and jewellery reminder

At Brockington College, we have clear uniform expectations as detailed in our [uniform policy](#); and all students are expected to adhere to the wearing of full uniform at all times. Thank you for your continued support in helping to maintain a high level of uniform standard at Brockington College. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students, parents and carers that leggings do not meet school uniform requirements and are not permitted. Jewellery should also be limited to one small gold/silver stud per ear and a watch only. Students in years 9,10 and 11 may also wear one small nose stud.



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Non-uniform / Christmas jumper day donations

Finally, we held a whole school non-uniform / Christmas jumper day on the last day of term. Thank you to all who have already donated their £1; you are able to donate, via ParentPay, until Friday 7 January. Action Homeless Leicester will benefit along with The Pituitary Foundation, both charities have been nominated by college staff and students.

Whilst we recognise that high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with staffing over these coming weeks, our priority is to keep everyone safe whilst keeping school open to continue face-to-face education. I thank you all for all of your continued support and look forward to working with you together over the coming term.

Yours sincerely



Sadie Batstone
Principal

