



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene
Secondary

Issue No 07 | December | Thursday 2nd

Dear Parent carers,

I hope you are keeping well. On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. It has since been confirmed that these measures will have an impact on schools and I write to you to share the temporary changes:

- Face covering should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.
- Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.
- All students should continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow device tests.
- All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vax).
- In addition to the current guidance on contact tracing, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status. You will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace.
- Young people aged 12 to 15 years should receive a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, no sooner than twelve weeks after the first dose

Due to the increased concern, we are reluctantly cancelling all face to face meetings for parents in school and we will continue to keep larger events such as parents' evenings under review. Please note, you will only be allowed in the building via appointment only and will need to wear face covering at all times.

The Prime Minister also announced that all international arrivals must take a Day 2 PCR test and self-isolate until they receive a negative result. For families who were planning to travel abroad during the Christmas break, you should ensure your child is able to return to school on Tuesday 4th January, having completed the test and period of self-isolation.

As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe.

Mr R Hussain
Principal