



29th November 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

Following recent government announcements, we have some important information to share with you.

Face Coverings

Face coverings over the nose and mouth are compulsory from Tuesday 30th November 2021 for all students and staff. This includes on public and school transport, entering school, walking in and around the school site, outside and in corridors. We are aware that some people are exempt from face coverings and we will update our information over the coming days.

Whilst not yet compulsory, students and staff will be encouraged to wear face masks in classrooms to reduce transmission. Please remember with increased ventilation in classrooms, along with colder temperatures, children should bring a suitable coat.

Students and staff will NOT be required to wear a face covering ONCE they have arrived on the playground / tennis courts for morning or lunchtime break, however they must wear it again when transitioning back into the school during break, and at the end.

Students will be expected to carry a mask with them at all times, and are responsible for this. Masks will be available at school entrances, however replacements during the day should not be relied upon as supplies are limited. Please also consider how these can be stored hygienically when removed, and provide a plastic bag if necessary. Refusal to wear a mask in line with directed government guidance will result in appropriate sanctions. Please also remind your child about good hygiene including sanitising their hands and regular handwashing.

Contact Tracing and Isolation

Current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to this, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the new Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 full days regardless of vaccination status or age.

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive cases and/or their parents to help identify close contacts. All individuals identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, irrespective of vaccination or age, will be contacted directly, required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. The Local Health Protection Team or NHS Test and Trace will notify close contacts if they fall into this category.

For everyone else, isolation rules remain unchanged. This means that all children should be in school, unless asked to isolate by the NHS Test and Trace team or have a positive LFT/PCR. School will require a copy of this notification for our attendance records.

If a student needs to self-isolate due to Omicron or a positive PCR test, the school will continue to deliver live lessons, or set work via Google Classroom.

Vaccination

We encourage all eligible staff and students aged 12 and over, 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 those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch and pass the virus on. To book a vaccination visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Return to School January 2022

We have been directed to carry out a single lateral flow test for all students on return to school on Wednesday 5 January. To minimise disruption to our students' education we aim to carry out all testing in one day.

Thank you to all the parents who provided consent for the last round and we will carry these consents forward. Our students are always supportive and helpful with the testing process, and our thanks go to them. If you have changed your mind and now chose to opt-out please email office@marshlandhigh.co.uk

Home Testing - You should continue to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow testing at home until further notice and specifically before returning to school on 5 January. If you receive a positive result, you should advise the attendance line as soon as possible or email office@marshlandhigh.co.uk and then follow the latest government guidance for self-isolation.

On Site Visits - All meetings have again been restricted. Visitors should not turn up on site without a pre-booked appointment, otherwise they will be turned away.

Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 9 December will be virtual and online appointment bookings are now open to help make the most of this important final year at Marshland.

Breakfast bagels continue to be available every morning from the canteen, free of charge for all students.

Fundraising

With your help and support, we raised £306.46 for Children in Need and £303.78 for the Poppy Appeal. We thank you.

Christmas Jumper Day is on **Friday 10 December** and ParentPay now has the minimum £1 donation option for your child to wear their Christmas jumper with their usual uniform trouser or skirt. There is no expectation that children buy a jumper specially, and instead could get creative and make something to wear, or add temporary decorations to their uniform for the day.

Christmas Concert Tuesday 14 December – given increased restrictions, the Christmas Concert will be taking place for a strictly limited number of invited guests. More details will be provided nearer the event.

Finally, keep up to date with all the exciting events happening at school by following us on Twitter - **@MarshlandHS** – you can always find the link at the top of our website.

Yours faithfully

Mr Craig Jansen

Headteacher