



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

29th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re. Government Announcements – Coronavirus

I am sure that you are now aware of the recent announcements from the Government regarding the coronavirus. If not, here are the important messages:

- The government is now ‘strongly advising’ that face coverings should be worn in all education and childcare settings in communal areas by staff and visitors, unless they are exempt. Students in Year 7 or above, should also wear face coverings in communal areas, unless they are exempt.
- The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. However, close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases will be asked to self-isolate for ten days. They will be contacted directly and told to isolate. This is regardless of a person's vaccination status.
- Schools and colleges “will want to consider whether to go ahead with planned international educational visits at this time, recognising the risk of disruption to education resulting from the need to isolate and test on arrival back into the UK”.
- Anyone entering the UK will require a PCR test by the end of the second day after their arrival and will need to self-isolate until they have a negative result.

It is asked that **your son brings a facemask each day from tomorrow** onwards (unless exempt). Unfortunately, we do not have a supply of facemasks available to issue to students, so it is vital that they have their own. Students must now wear a facemask on public transport and in shops also.

We will be issuing more lateral flow test kits from tomorrow, which means that your son will have enough tests up to the Christmas break.

The Department for Education (DfE) have stated that Christmas productions can still take place providing it is safe to do so. On the evening of Thursday 2nd December, The John Fisher Music Department will be kick-starting Christmas with a Bonanza! They will be performing a variety of Christmas favourites from every one of our ensembles, which involves students from Years 7-13. This concert is our first in a long time and the first event that our Year 7's and 8's will have been a part of. Tickets (£5, £3 concessions, under 16s free) are available on ParentPay and in order to ensure a safe environment for all, please email g.lercher@johnfisherschool.org in advance, if you wish to attend with the number in your party so that we can ensure the necessary precautions are in place.

This year we are planning to hold two Carol services on both Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th December at 7.00pm to ensure a safe environment for all who attend. The school will be making a final decision next week on whether or not these can take place, as they are in the final week of term just before the Christmas holidays.

The DfE announced on Friday that schools are to carry out mass lateral flow testing at the beginning of Term 2. This means that there will be a slight change to the end of term arrangements and the return after the Christmas break.

Students will now have their last school day on Thursday 16th December. This will allow staff members the half day on 17th December to set up the test centre in the Sports Hall.

Testing will take place on Tuesday 4th January and the INSET Day which was originally planned for that day, will now take place on Wednesday 5th January. You will receive a separate letter soon regarding the arrangements for lateral flow testing on Tuesday 4th January.

Here is a breakdown of the week beginning Monday 3rd January 2022:

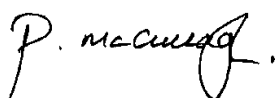
Monday 3rd January: Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4th January: Students in school for lateral flow testing only
Wednesday 5th January: INSET Day - no students in school
Thursday 6th January: All students return to school

Parents/Carers are asked to carefully think about their travel plans over the Christmas break, particularly if they are considering travelling overseas with their sons.

Fortunately, the number of students who are testing positive for the coronavirus is low, although we do have an increasing number of staff members who are not in school, which we continue to monitor. In the event that we are unable to cover all of the absent staff members, then the school would have to resort to a remote form of education when lessons would take place via 'Zoom'. The school does have the experience of doing this, which would hopefully stand us in good stead if we had no other alternative.

If your child tests positive by a lateral flow test, it is important that they don't come into school and that you book a PCR test immediately.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh
Headteacher