



Ref:KB/MB/JanuaryUpdate

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: JANUARY 2022 ACADEMY UPDATE

I hope you and your family are keeping well and that you enjoyed the winter break.

As you may already be aware, the Government has released new guidance which recommends that secondary school students wear face coverings in the classroom and within teaching spaces, upon returning to school this term.

This is to help limit transmission of Coronavirus – particularly in light of the recent Omicron variant surge – and importantly, to minimise disruption to learning as much as possible, which continues to be our main priority.

The re-introduction of face coverings within teaching settings is said to be a temporary measure which the Government will keep under continuous review. There will be a full assessment of the guidance on 26th January, at which point the wider Plan B regulations for England will also be reviewed.

If your child is Year 7 or above, they are expected to wear a face covering inside the classroom from now until at least the 26th of January, unless they are exempt. This measure will go alongside our existing safety protocols which includes wearing masks in communal areas and corridors across the school site. We also ask that all parents now wear a face covering while on the Academy site, unless exempt.

I wanted to ensure you were aware of this new guidance and the Academy's expectations in advance, so that your child comes to school this week with an appropriate face covering. Your support in helping us to implement this is greatly appreciated.

If you have any issues accessing an appropriate face covering for your child, please do let us know at the earliest opportunity and we will endeavour to provide one for you.

As you are aware, when we welcome our pupils back into school tomorrow, we will be carrying out on site Lateral Flow Testing for those pupils with parental consent. If you have not yet given your consent, and wish to do so, you can give your consent by sending an email to admin@medeshamstedeacademy.org. Please ensure you state you child's full name and date of birth, as well as your full name.

Please be aware that the on-site testing will be carried out this week only, as your child returns to school after the winter break. We ask that you continue to test your child at home, twice weekly, as before, and inform us as soon as possible if your child tests positive for Covid-19.

Medeshamstede Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust Group of Academies

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Due to the rise in cases, we have already seen an impact on our staffing levels across the Academy. Because of this, we are currently unable to offer our usual level of food tech and art lessons. We are working hard to ensure that we can offer these lessons as close to our usual level as possible. We will keep you updated with regards to this.

Ensuring the health and safety of our students, staff and wider school community is essential. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation, as we embark on a new year and new term which we hope will be a positive one, despite some of the inevitable challenges ahead.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy directly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr M Bentham', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Bentham
Interim Principal