

15th December 2021

Dear Parents and Cares

The following information is accurate as of 15th December 2021 but may change due to circumstances beyond our control.

As you will have been aware the Covid 19 landscape is currently changing with the new Omicron variant and new rules and restrictions are being implemented nationally.

School have been asked by the Department for Education (DFE) to complete onsite testing upon the return after Christmas. To enable MCA to facilitate this we will be welcoming all students back to the academy on **Tuesday 4th January 2022** using **staggered start times** which are outlined below.

Time	Year Group
8:30	Year 7
8:30	Year 11
9:45	Year 9
9:45	Year 10
11:00	Year 8

Students should arrive no sooner than 15 minutes before their allocated time of this day

Upon the return students will be conducting Lateral flow testing. MCA will be using the Covid consent that we have already collected during the last 18 months. If you wish to remove onsite testing consent for your child, please email furtherinformation@mca.manchester.sch.uk stating your child's full name, year group and including within the subject header "Remove my child consent".

If you have previously not given consent and now would like to please email furtherinformation@mca.manchester.sch.uk stating your child's full name, year group and including within the subject header "I give my consent".

We would strongly encourage as many students as possible to undertake onsite testing to ensure that our school community is kept safe when we return.

As of the 14th December 2021 there has been a number of changes to the way we have to operate when identified as a close contact. These changes are outlined below;

All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 – whether Omicron or not should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating."



Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should:

- Take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the online Reporting System and to their school.
- If they test negative, they can continue to attend school.
- If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.
- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

Over the Christmas break we would also encourage all of our students to continue with twice weekly covid testing at home. Ideally completed every Sunday and Wednesday. You should continue to record your results using the online reporting system. Over the last week MCA has been distributing boxes of LFD kits to students for this purpose. If you require anymore test kits, these tests can be collected from local pharmacies or our school reception up until 17th December 2021.

All students aged 12 to 15 have now been offered the Covid 19 vaccine. If you would like further information or would like to book a vaccination for your child please visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/

When we return in January all student will continue to wear a face mask (unless except) in communal areas of our school building. Currently there is no expectation for students to wear a face mask in lessons but if your child would prefer to wear one we would welcome this choice. If the current national guidance changes, we will be in contact with you to let you know.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and merry Christmas. We are looking forward to seeing your child back with us in January 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Woolley
Vice Principal
Greater Manchester Academies Trust