



Ark Acton Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures have been introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant until we have more information. The government has explained what this means for schools. They have outlined their advice here.

These changes were implemented on 29/11/21 at Ark Acton Academy:

Face coverings

- All staff and all visitors must now wear face coverings in communal areas unless exempt.
- Please send your child to school with a face mask unless they are exempt.

Continue to test using Lateral Flow Device tests at home

All staff and pupils should continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests, students can collect tests from reception, or we hand them out every 2 weeks in the blue and silver playground at the end of the day to those who have consent, please remember to report results via the Gov site and the school form (links to both are send via email on Wednesdays and Sundays). A reminder that if the result of this is positive, you must self-isolate straight away – check if people you live with need to self-isolate; get a PCR test (a test that is sent to a lab) to confirm your result as soon as possible – get a PCR test to check if you have COVID-19 on GOV.UK

Testing at the start of January

Our students will need to take one onsite test at the start of the term in January. We will share further details on the arrangements for this once confirmed.

Test & Trace changes

Test and Trace may contact you if you are a confirmed close contact of the Omicron variant. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

Travel guidance

There are changes to travel guidance, please ensure you understand the implication for any holiday plans in December and your return to school in January. All pupils must be in school and ready to learn on 06/01/22.

What is not changing

At the moment there is no requirement for us to return to bubbles, wear masks in classrooms or cease parent events or pupil trips.

Overall, the government wants us to take a responsible approach to managing the risk of COVID-19 whilst also continuing to prioritise pupils' education. We will continue to make reasonable assessments about the level of risk involved in all activities.

As ever, we are so grateful for your support. We will continue to communicate swiftly and openly with you about these important matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Oliver Knight
Principal