

Storrs Hill Road, Ossett,
West Yorkshire
WF5 0DG

10 December 2021

01924 232820
enquiries@ossett.acordmat.org
ossett.acordmat.org

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal: Mrs Samantha Broome

Government's Plan B Announcement

As you will be aware on Wednesday the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

The Government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open.

To support this, the DfE have provided an update for all school settings yesterday, that sets out the following measures to support the Government announcement.

Attendance

School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority. The academy may be able to grant leaves of absence for pupils in exceptional circumstances. All established academy procedures in relation to attendance remain unchanged.

Children and young people previously considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) should attend the academy as normal and should follow the same [COVID-19 guidance](#) as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

Face Coverings

Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in Year 7 and above, staff and visitors in communal areas and when moving around the academy, unless they are exempt. This is in line with our current risk assessment following the re-introduction of this measure last week.

Pupils and students in Year 7 and above must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school where this applies.

Face coverings are not recommended for pupils/students and staff in classrooms or office spaces.

After-School Activities

After school activities can continue. These activities facilitate an important aspect of our wider provision to promote the wellbeing of children and young people.

Working From Home

Whilst the Government has advised office workers who can work from home to do so from Monday 13 December, the Government expects all education and childcare settings to continue to provide face-to-face teaching. All academy staff will continue to attend the academy. Teaching and learning will not be moved online as a result of the work from home guidance.

Testing

We are strongly encouraging all our staff to continue with regular LFD testing both during term time and over the Christmas break. We encourage all our pupils/students to do the same, having had access to sufficient test kits for the school holiday period.

The Government advises children in Year 7 and above and adults to test if they will be in a high-risk situation on any particular day and before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

May we sensitively ask that where you are invited to attend the academy for a pre-planned event or meeting that you undertake a lateral flow device (LFD) test before attending the academy if you are able to do so. Please do not attend the academy if you are displaying any of the Coronavirus symptoms.

Isolation

The guidelines for isolation are currently as follows:

If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS;
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old;
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial;
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

However, all individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the **Omicron variant of COVID-19**, irrespective of vaccination status and age, **will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and asked to book a PCR test**. This only applies to the Omicron variant positive test and not any other positive test. Persons testing positive for the Omicron variant or persons who are a close contact of a person testing positive for the Omicron variant will be contacted directly by Test and Trace.

January 2022 Return

As advised by the Government, we will review our existing Outbreak Management Plans to ensure we are fully prepared for any future changes that may be advised by the Government or an increase in case numbers, seeking advice from Public Health teams as required.

Where there are exams for vocational and technical qualifications timetabled for January, these will continue as planned. Pupils/students who are due to sit these exams will be prepared and it is right that they should be given every opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. Exams and formal assessments will go ahead. Consequently, it is essential that pupils/students continue to prepare for these assessments.

In our letter earlier this week, you will have seen our response to the Government's request for support with on-site testing for pupils/students on our return in January. We are encouraging all pupils/students in Year 7 and above to test over the break and only access a test on site on our return if they have not been able to access one at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Broome". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Mrs Broome
Principal