

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

From Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, the government announced that in all schools, face coverings should be worn in communal areas by “staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings when using public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.” This information was sent to all parents and carers via text message on Sunday evening. If you did not receive the message please contact [enquiries@ripin.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@ripin.outwood.com) as you will be required to update your contact details with the academy to ensure effective future communication.

This measure has been introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the new Omicron variant. However, as you are aware from communication last week, we have an increasing number of cases within the Academy community. Please encourage your child to bring with them their own face covering. We distributed over 200 face coverings on Monday which is an unsustainable number of items to distribute on a daily basis. This has improved significantly throughout this week but please continue to remind your child to bring their own face covering with them every morning.

We also encourage all staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. If your child requires any more testing kits these are available within the Academy and students should ask their Tutor or Learning Manager where they can collect additional packs.

Please be reminded that all eligible students aged 12 and over have the opportunity to access the vaccine. There are details below of how you can book a vaccination for your child:

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

Throughout this academic year we have continued to expect that all classroom environments have suitable ventilation, as this has been identified as a key contributor in reducing transmission of the virus. As we have previously identified, to maintain good ventilation within classroom environments, we will be required to keep windows in classrooms open. This will inevitably result in some areas of the Academy experiencing low temperatures during the day. This provides some challenges for students and staff in these winter months, specifically January and February which are typically the coldest months of the year.

During these circumstances, we recognise that without making appropriate temporary modifications to the uniform policy, classrooms could become uncomfortable for some students, therefore students are asked to wear the official school jumpers for added warmth. However, this year, given the continued requirement to once again best prepare ourselves against the virus your child is able to wear a plain black cotton jumper/sweatshirt as an alternative to the Trutex Outwood logo option below.

<https://www.trutex.com/catalog/product/view/id/16433/s/standard-fit-cotton->

It is however important to emphasise that this is a **temporary alteration**. When there is a return to warmer temperatures in the Spring term or when restrictions allow for less ventilation in classrooms students will be expected to wear only their white shirt and blazer or Trutex school jumper.

Any student wearing a plain black sweatshirt as part of this measure **MUST** ensure it is plain black and without any logo. Below are examples of black sweatshirts with unacceptable logos. **Any student wearing a sweatshirt with any logo will be asked to remove it.**



Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Pratt', written in a cursive style.

Mr W Pratt  
Principal

