



29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you safe, well and having enjoyed a peaceful weekend.

I write with reference to the events of the weekend where we were informed about a variant of COVID-19 known as Omicron. There is not enough information about this variant of concern but one of the things which is currently under investigation is whether there is significant immune escape and therefore poses a greater risk than previous variants. In addition to this, Delta AY.4.2 now makes up 20% of the cases in the UK and is more transmissible than Delta, although thankfully the number of severe cases remains low.

All in all, this means that in order to ensure our community is as safe as possible and that we ensure a continuity of education/work for all, we are having to 'step-up' our control measures in school. I must be clear that this 'stepping-up' will not deter us in providing our students and indeed ourselves with the level of normality we have relished and thrived on since September. Most of the control measures will not be seen by our students and are a pragmatic set of measures enabling our community to continue doing what they do best. This includes a variety of trips and visits that are planned in up to the Christmas break and of course our co-curricular programme will continue to run after school.

Sadly, however, we are having to cancel, postpone or be creative in how we deliver some events in school. The Ex-Cantell staff Christmas lunch, a highlight of our annual calendar is having to be cancelled and our Christmas concert being moved to an online platform. More information to follow.

We have been ahead of the curve with face coverings and there is no doubt that this has helped, with only a handful of cases since October half-term. Our students and staff will continue to wear face coverings indoors and will receive two 5-minute breaks (from wearing the face covering) during every lesson, at a time when all students and staff are silent, minimising the risk of aerosol transmission. Students and staff will continue to not have to wear a face covering outside if they choose not to do so.

There are several ways you can help us keep our community safe and help us continue to deliver the very best face to face education we can:

1. Please ensure your young person comes to school with at least one face covering. Having two is ideal as invariably face coverings can become wet and having a second one means they can be swapped over.
2. Please ensure you are testing your child regularly - at least twice in the week using a LFD test or saliva or a combination of LFD and the saliva test.

3. Please ensure your child comes suitably clothed to school. That is they have a jacket that is waterproof and now that the colder weather is upon us gloves and perhaps a hat. Windows in all our rooms are open and students, like staff are allowed to wear their outdoor clothing inside.
4. Please ensure your child brings their own sanitiser. We have plenty in and around the school but ideally a young person needs one to hand and should be in the habit of regularly using this.

As always, should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on [headspa@cantell.co.uk](mailto:headspa@cantell.co.uk)

Warmest regards,



Harry Kutty  
Headteacher

