



25 January 2021

## Dear parents and carers

In my first Nobel News of 2022 I spoke with optimism about our Covid numbers and feeling that we had turned a corner. It seems that I spoke too soon, Omicron is now hitting us. We have a large number of teachers and students away from school, including me!

In line with the latest national guidance and as required by the Public Health team of Hertfordshire County Council we are implementing our Outbreak Management Plan and will be introducing or reintroducing the following measures until **Tuesday 8 February** when they will be reviewed to see if they are still necessary.

- We need to continue to use face coverings for the whole school when moving around inside the premises, such as in corridors and communal areas where close contact cannot be avoided
- In addition, for students in Year 9, and the staff teaching them, the requirement to wear face masks in the classroom will be reintroduced with immediate effect.
- All students and staff should now test three times a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. We have distributed additional test packs to students today. However, we do also encourage parents / carers to order packs directly from the online service. This can be done via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> . You can also collect them locally and find your closest pick up point by clicking here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

## Attendance restrictions

We currently have a significant number of staff absent, which has put pressure on running the school safely for all students. We may, therefore, need to ask some year groups to work from home in the coming days. This will always be a last resort and will be for the shortest time possible.

If students are asked to work from home, they will need to check Satchel: One for work set for the day. It will not be possible for live lessons to be provided via Microsoft Teams as their teachers will be redeployed to cover staff absences. However, we will provide as much guidance as possible.



Headteacher: Martyn Henson

The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 0HS

Tel: 01438 222600

Email: [admin@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

[www.thenobelschool.org](http://www.thenobelschool.org)





I will communicate any need to ask a year group to work from home at the earliest possible opportunity, but it is possible that this may occur with less than 24 hours' notice.

### General COVID information

- In addition to the now well-known symptoms of a high temperature, cough and lost or change to sense of smell or taste, if your child is showing symptoms of a cold – runny nose, headache, sneezing, fatigue or feeling generally unwell, please keep your child at home. These are the key symptoms of the Omicron variant which mimic the common cold.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your co-operation, we wish those affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher



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