



December 9th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and I would like to thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. This is just an update to outline the required response in line with the Department for Education, to the Governments implementation of Plan B for COVID-19.

Please keep checking your email and the college website for information.

DFE: Information for all education and childcare settings on implementing Plan B of the COVID-19

Response: Autumn and Winter Plan

On Wednesday 8 December, 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 the Government will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open. The measures set out below will support this.

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.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in year 7 and above (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021), staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure. Pupils and students in year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school, college, or higher education provider.

We do not recommend that pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms, unless their Director of Public Health advises them to temporarily do so in one of the circumstances described in the [Contingency Framework Guidance](#).



Notre Dame

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We expect all education and childcare settings, including further and higher education providers, to continue to provide face-to-face teaching. Teaching and learning should not be moved online as a result of the work from home guidance.

January return

January Exams: There are exams for vocational and technical qualifications timetabled for January. 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 students continue to prepare for these assessments.

January testing PRIOR to return: Further and higher education students, and staff in all educational and childcare settings, should take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return in January. Then they should continue to test in line with government guidelines and we recommend all staff and eligible students take up the offer of a vaccine.

I sincerely appreciate all of your continued support and hope that we can all draw strength from each other being part of a very special community at Notre Dame.

With sincere best wishes

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Barlow PRINCIPAL