

Parents and Carers in Secondary Schools and College

Our address:
Town Hall
1 Town Square
Barking
IG11 7LU

Ref: EdComm/Schools/Letters

January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Letter to parents in secondary schools and college

I am writing to you as your local Director of Public Health to thank you for your continued support through these difficult times, and to let you know how you can stay safe and help us to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Due to the high number of Covid-19 cases locally, particularly the now dominant Omicron variant, it has become necessary to step up safety measures in schools as we head into the new year.

I have recommended that all schools put the following measures in place from the start of the new term in January to help stop the spread and keep everyone safe.

- All adults and pupils must wear face masks in communal areas such as corridors. I am also recommending that face masks are worn in classrooms where social distancing is not possible.
- Children, young people and staff should work in 'bubbles' where appropriate to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
- Schools should reduce large gatherings and avoid year groups mixing where possible.
- Schools should reduce the number of visitors to the site.

We must all work together to stop the spread of the virus. You can help us by:

- wearing a face mask at all times when you're on the school site (not just inside)
- keeping a sensible distance from others
- avoiding gathering at the gates
- encouraging your family to keep their hands clean
- [testing regularly](#) as a family
- taking up the offer of the [vaccine](#), or booster, for you (and your child if they're eligible)
- following [self-isolation rules](#).

By taking these steps, you'll be supporting our schools to stay open and keep as many children attending as possible. And you'll be making sure that you're doing everything you can to protect your own family and friends.

I'd like to wish you all a happy, healthy new year.

Yours faithfully,



Matthew Cole
Director of Public Health