

Tuesday 30 November 2021

Dear Student and Parents / Carers

Keeping you as safe as possible

Following a weekend where many of us saw at least a dusting of snow, I hope that you are keeping well as we approach the final few weeks of the first term.

I thought it may be useful to keep you updated following the Prime Minister's weekend announcement and how the College continues to uphold its safety measures that have been in place since all students returned in September.

Over the weekend, PM Boris Johnson confirmed as part of measures to target the new coronavirus variant, Omicron, that face coverings will become mandatory again in shops and on public transport from today (Tuesday 30 November). It is also now mandatory in educational settings for Year 7 and above.

Since the start of the academic year, we have kept the requirement for students, staff and visitors to wear face coverings at all of our campuses and so please ensure that these are worn when you arrive at the College. Staff will challenge anyone on campus that is not wearing a face covering or visibly displaying their exemption by wearing a sunflower lanyard whilst within communal areas on any campus.

Our safety measures and expectations

To ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible whilst at College we continue to ask everyone to follow the measures we have put in place:

- **Take a rapid lateral flow test at home twice a week** before you travel to College and report results straight away to help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others.
- **Download our testing app.** You will have received an email earlier this year inviting you to download the app (available via <https://testregister.co.uk/>). This will save you time and helps us to identify any areas of concern so we can act quickly. Once you download the app, you will be asked to register your details and from next week will be able to record your rapid test results.
- **Continue to wear face coverings** when in communal social areas on campus such as walking into the building, corridors, breakout areas and seating areas.
- **Wash your hands or use the hand sanitising stations** when entering and exiting any building. You are welcome to bring your own hand sanitiser solutions to use throughout the day.
- **Keep your distance** where possible and follow any social distancing measures that may remain in place around campus.
- **Get vaccinated or your booster** when invited by the NHS. To find your nearest vaccination centre [click here](#).

Reporting of COVID-19 symptoms or positive test

Please continue to report COVID-19 related symptoms or a positive test result by calling your Personal Achievement Tutor, teaching department, or Student Services as soon as you can and immediately on receipt of a positive test result. Students must let us know to prompt the track and trace of others as soon as possible. If the student is too sick to do this themselves, they should get a family member or friend to do so on their behalf.

Students will be asked to confirm the following information:

- The date they developed symptoms
- Last date they were in College
- If others in the household have symptoms
- If a COVID-19 PCR test has been arranged

If you have symptoms, you can [book a test](#) via:

- NHS Website
- Telephone NHS 119

Please be aware that you must inform the Student Services team at the College immediately of your test result via email:

- Bedford College, The Bedford Sixth Form: covidreportbedford@bedford.ac.uk
- Shuttleworth College and Halls of Residence: covidreportshuttleworth@bedford.ac.uk
- Tresham College: covidreporttresham@bedford.ac.uk
- National College for Motorsport: covidreporttresham@bedford.ac.uk

If you or someone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19, you (or the member of your household) must take a test as soon as possible. You may attend College if you have been vaccinated and have received a negative PCR test and are feeling well enough and do not have a high temperature of 38c or above. The most recent update over the weekend has stated that if you are notified you have been a close contact of the new variant Omicron, you will still need to self-isolate for 10 days regardless of your vaccination status.

If you are asked to self-isolate:

If you are asked to self-isolate due to being in close contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 following a positive test and if you have not been vaccinated, you must self-isolate for the full 10 days, even if you receive a negative test result in this time. The most recent update over the weekend has also stated that if you are notified you have been a close contact of the new variant Omicron, you will also need to self-isolate for 10 days regardless of your vaccination status.

If you have any other concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your Personal Achievement Tutor, teaching team or Student Services by emailing:

- Bedford College, The Bedford Sixth Form & Shuttleworth College: Email studentservices@bedford.ac.uk or telephone 01234 291770
- Tresham College and NC4M: Email studentservices@tresham.ac.uk or telephone 01536 413232.

We hope that you and your family continue to be safe and well and we will be in touch once further guidance is published by the Department for Education for Colleges.

Yours sincerely



Em Lowe
Vice Principal, The Bedford College Group