Date	5 January 2022
Your ref	
Our ref	LF/GC/050122

Dear Parents and Carers

Here we are at the start of 2022, hopefully all relaxed and refreshed and ready for the final few weeks of winter. By now many of you will have experienced COVID first hand, so will be well aware of how difficult it is to have a 'normal' life, through illness or self-isolation. Our mission however hasn't changed: to keep schools open and delivering the best teaching and learning for all. Your support and understanding in achieving this cannot be underplayed; here are a few more 'asks' before children return tomorrow:

- Secondary pupils take an LFD (Lateral Flow Device) test; click covid-19-get-a-test-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms to order more tests online
- Primary and ELC pupils can be supported to take tests if the family wishes
- All pupils should dress warmly, even if this means wearing clothes that are not standard school uniform; click School Uniform Bank for recycled clothing and/or contact your school for more information
- Wear face coverings in secondary schools, unless exempt
- Be advised that the regular school meal service, and transport arrangements may be adjusted if there are staff shortages

Although we are assuming that there will be more staff absent throughout January, we will do everything we can for pupils to have their normal school experience. As I said above, this can't happen without your help and understanding, so our thanks again.

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Finally, you may have heard about the introduction of free Bus Travel for children. Processes for applying are being finalised. Please look out for information from your child's school shortly.

Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

Lorna French
Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning