



Bexley Grammar School
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23rd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Changes to the start of term in January.

A brief letter to put your minds at rest just before your Christmas celebrations begin in earnest!

You will have seen media coverage of the proposed mass testing in schools - we are planning to take part in this voluntary testing programme on our return in January. As you would expect, we are keeping abreast of the evolving information; I attended a webinar this afternoon which demonstrated that although plenty of planning has been done by NHS Test and Trace and the DfE, more detail is still on its way after Christmas and there are still as many questions as there are answers.

I will write to you again by the end of December with confirmation of details of the process to expect. In the meantime, to help your planning, please see the **changes to our previously published details** about when your child is expected to return to school.

Though still subject to change, this is the likely picture for the first week of the Spring term:

- **Monday 4th January**
 - INSET day (training/setting up for mass testing) - no students in school.
- **Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January**
 - Year 11, year 13, vulnerable students and children of key workers only in school;
 - Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 at home with virtual learning provided by teachers.
- **Monday 11th January**
 - **All students return** to school (except any students self-isolating).

Please check your ParentPay email (and your junk/spam folder) next week for more details on what is being offered, how to give consent, and so on.

Also, **we are very keen to recruit volunteers** to help with the process for the first few weeks of the year. Again, more details to follow (PPE, training, etc. will be provided) but please have a think about whether you might be able to offer some time, especially in the week beginning 4th January, when our ambition is to enable all staff and students who wish to, to self-administer a lateral flow test which provides a result within 30 minutes. We will be approaching you next week by email.

All best wishes for the festive season.

Steve Elphick