



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College
and IB World School
Tel: 020 8304 8538

e-mail: enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr S C Elphick

July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your families are well and looking forward to the summer holidays. I write following Mr Elphick's letter last week to give you some of the information needed prior to the start of term on **Friday 3rd September 2021**.

As you are now aware, our start of term has been complicated a little by the government requirement to test all students twice at the start of term (3 to 5 days apart). As a result we are staggering the start times for all students arriving back in school after the holidays.

On Friday 3rd September, each form will be asked to arrive in school at a staggered start time for a testing slot between 8.30 and 10.00 am. After their test they will spend some time with their form tutor on organisational and induction matters and will then begin lessons later in the day.

The staggered start times are as follows:

Form	Arrival time at school on Friday 3rd September
7 STA	8.30am
7 MPM	8.45am
7 JMP	9.00am
7 JOO	9.15am
7 FTM	9.30am
7 MAM	9.45am

I would ask that students arrive at school as close to the time stated above and no earlier than 5 minutes beforehand. Students should enter the school via the gate closest to Danson Park where they will be met and asked to line up on the Tennis Courts. Please understand that **parents may not enter the school site**, only your children; this is part of our current Covid-19 risk assessment.

Following their covid test (for those with parental consent) students will proceed to their form room. There are plans in place should the weather be poor on that day. If you are driving, please park your car well away from the school, with consideration for our neighbours, and walk the final 5 or 10 minutes.

We appreciate your support with keeping to these timings as we are keen to avoid a prolonged gathering in large numbers at the start and end of the day.

At the end of the day, students will be dismissed by tutor group, according to the following staggered times from the same gate:

3:00pm: STA, MPM; 3:10pm: JMP, FTM; 3:20pm: MAM, JOO

If you are collecting your child, we urge you to plan to meet your child well away from the gate, further along the road in either direction, bearing in mind our pleas to drivers (see above). Please do **not** congregate at the gate or block the pavement.

(If you have not yet given your consent for testing and would like to, please refer to Mr Elphick's previous letter and **complete this [online consent form](#) by midday Friday 23rd July.**)

From Monday 6th September

- Monday 6th September - normal school day from 8.30 am to 3.00 pm.
- Tuesday 7th September - normal school day with a second test during the morning.

From Monday 6th September pupils will not be allowed to enter the school through the bottom gates, but must enter and leave through the pedestrian gates and pedestrian entrance that will be sign-posted "Year 7 Entrance". Pupils will be shown on their school maps how to get to their first lesson during their time with their form tutor on Friday. From this day onwards timings will revert to the normal school day of **8.30 am to 3.00 pm**.

The school canteen will be open from Friday 3rd September serving hot and cold food and will be taking cash until students are set up with their ParentPay accounts. Students are also welcome to bring a packed lunch if they prefer.

Please see the below list for useful equipment needed for lessons:

Pencil case
Black/blue pen plus spare
Pencils
Colouring pencils
Glue stick
Sharpener
Rubber
Ruler (30cm, foldable if possible)

Maths set (compass, protractor etc)
Highlighters
Whiteboard pen

Students will be informed of the need for any additional, subject specific equipment during their first lesson(s). Children will not need their PE kit for their first day. Students are also asked to bring their own **tissues, wipes and sanitiser** to help us to manage our enhanced cleaning regime and to reduce the teaching time lost to cleaning.

As I am sure you are aware, Bexley Grammar School's mobile phone policy requires phones to be switched off at the beginning of the day and remain out of sight and off until the end of the school day, unless directed for use under specific teacher instruction. If you have any queries or concerns about your child during the school day, please contact Reception.

I hope this provides the information needed prior to our start in September. Please see the FAQs at the end of this letter. I am sure there will be a few additional questions that we will be able to answer directly with your child once school has started. In the meantime, I look forward to starting the new term with <<Forename>> after what has hopefully been a positive summer holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Belton-Owen
Director of Studies Year 7

Frequently asked questions -

Does BGS have a bike shed?

Yes, please ensure your child brings a lock and key padlock to secure their bike and wears a bike helmet to and from school.

Do football boots need to match their house colour?

No, it is not necessary for football boots to match house colours.

When will my child need to bring in their PE kit?

Your child will be given their timetable on their first day detailing which days they will have PE. They do not need to bring their PE kit on their first day.

Are there water fountains around the school for my child to fill up their water bottle?

Yes, we do have water fountains located around the school for children to fill up water bottles. Please ensure your child's name is clearly labelled on their water bottle as many end up in lost property.

When will I be able to put money on my child's ParentPay?

Your child will be given their ParentPay login in September with more information on how it works within the school. You will then be able to put money on their account.

Will my child have access to a locker?

*We are pleased to be able to provide **lockers** for year 7 which will be issued on the first day (Friday). Students should bring a padlock (**combination locks are not recommended**). If the key is lost, students should go to reception for a note to authorise the Premises Manager to cut the padlock off the locker. Students will have access to their lockers before school (from 8.15 am), at breaktimes, at the beginning and end of lunchtime and after school. There will be no access to lockers during or between lessons.*

What about face coverings?

*Although current guidance states that face coverings will no longer be advised in September, they are likely to still be needed in specific circumstances. Therefore students should still carry a face covering. **Please ensure that your child has a reusable face covering at all times**, just as they wear uniform each day. It would be prudent to have a few of these so that they can be washed regularly in rotation. Students will be told in school if/when it is appropriate to wear them. The school is aware that a few individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings for medical reasons; parents should notify the school so that we can issue those individuals with passes.*