



Bexley Grammar School
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A Specialist Language College
and IB World School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

I wrote to you on 23rd July with some detailed information about how we were making the school Covid-secure and what role you and your children can play in keeping the school safe. The work in school is now complete but I need to update you on a few changes and remind you of a few key points before next week. My previous letter, the updated Risk Assessment and other information supporting our Covid-19 secure measures in school can be found on our [website here](#).

You will be aware of the **recent changes to guidance regarding [face coverings](#)** which has been covered comprehensively in the media. Government guidance still does not recommend face coverings as necessary in education settings. However, schools “have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.” We do not consider our circumstances to warrant the compulsory use of face coverings but we have updated our guidance as follows: “Face coverings may be worn in corridors and other communal spaces by students and teachers but this is not compulsory. (In the event of new local restrictions being imposed, the school may need to make face coverings compulsory - advice will be taken should this situation arise.) *Face coverings must be removed in classrooms.* [Safe wearing of face coverings](#) requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of reusable ones in individual, sealable plastic bags between use.”

The other important change for students to be aware of is that **lockers will not be available** for students for the foreseeable future. We had hoped to provide lockers for each year group bubble in zoned areas but this has proved unworkable while preserving social distancing in corridors. The congestion in locker areas that we had hoped to solve remains too high a risk so unfortunately I have had no other option but to ban the use of lockers on our return. Students will need to manage carefully what they bring into school each day once they know their timetable. Students had been asked to empty their lockers before the lockdown in March but I understand that some may still need to access their locker to retrieve their belongings. They must do so on their first day back in school, at a time when the area is quiet and should then remove their lock. **Any locks still in place by the end of the first week back will have to be cut off** so that we can clean and store the remaining lockers that we have been unable to access over the summer.

I repeat the most important instruction - that **if your child is displaying any symptoms of coronavirus ([coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)) you must not send her/him to school ([COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#))**. If your child develops

symptoms while at school, she/he will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days (increased from the previous guidance of 7 days) and should [arrange to have a test](#) as soon as possible.

For the journey to school, you can still use public transport but please consider other modes of transport such as walking and cycling ([Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)). If you do drop off by car, please arrange to do so at a good distance from the school; we have new no-stopping regulations across the entire frontage of the school which may be monitored by mobile CCTV units from next week.

We will be in contact with you in due course regarding upcoming events such as parents' evenings which will almost certainly not take place in the usual format. Our calendar will end up looking very different from previous years, especially without all our usual rich extra-curricular activities. We will resume whatever we are able to operate as guidance is updated as soon as we are able to do so safely.

Please read the information below carefully to ensure that students arrive at the right time on the right day at the right location and please provide a packed lunch for the first week if possible to help us to manage lunch times effectively as students adjust to the new arrangements.

I look forward to some sense of normality next week. We are all excited about having all your children back. Thank you for your support in ensuring our first days run smoothly.

Best wishes,



Steve Elphick

Quick-check summary:

1. Anyone with Coronavirus symptoms must not enter the school.
2. Please consider not using public transport if you have an alternative.
3. Attendance is mandatory, in school uniform, as usual.
4. Please pack tissues, wipes and sanitiser if possible.
5. You are encouraged to bring a packed lunch, snack for break and plenty of water, while routines in the canteen settle.
6. Check your arrival and departure times and by which gate you should enter the school (see below). Please arrive as close to the designated time as possible.
7. On your first day - go to your **form room** (see the list below) at your designated start time.
8. On subsequent days, go to your **first lesson**.
9. You will NOT have access to your lockers - please empty and remove your lock on the first day.
10. Our usual high standards of behaviour will be expected, including cooperation with Covid-secure measures and our mobile phone policy (phones off during the school day).

Return in September in NEW year groups as follows:

Wednesday 2nd September:

- Year 7 (8.40-8:50a.m. - gate to tennis courts). Staff will meet & greet students at the gate.
- Year 12 (8:15-8.40a.m. - reception gate). Staff will meet & greet in the canteen.

Thursday 3rd September:

- All students go to their **form rooms** (see next table) at the following start times:

STUDENT START/FINISH TIMES AND ENTRANCE/EXITS			
Year Group	Start	Finish	Entrance/Exit
7	8.50am	3.10pm	Pedestrian Gate
8	8.50am	3.10pm	Canteen Gate
9	8.40am	3.20pm	Pedestrian Gate
10	8.40am	3.20pm	Canteen Gate
11	8.30am	3.30pm	Pedestrian Gate
12	8.40am	3.20pm	Reception Gate
13	8.30am	3.30pm	Reception Gate

Friday 4th September:

- All year groups at times and gates as for Thursday but go directly to **lesson 1** on their new timetable, not their form room.

New Year group	New tutor group	Old tutor group	Room for September
8	NSS	7NSS	G15
	AMM	7AMM	G10
	MEM	7MEM	M6
	VJA	7VJA	L4
	MGG	7MGG	L2
	MCA	7MCA	M19
	JEA	7JEA	L15
9	JR	8JR	L3
	RPP	8RPP	M1
	LC	8LC	M22
	SDA	8MML	L14
	ML	8ML	M32
	EAG	8EAG	H8
10	PLR	9PLR	G16
	ERR	9ERR	G4
	MMC	9MPJ	M20
	SMK	9SMK	G12
	THW	9THW	G5
	ATS	9ATS	L13
11	STA	10STA	J7
	MPM	10MPM	G13
	JMP	10JMP	M5
	FTM	10FTM	H17

	MAM	10JSR	M3
	CED	10OTF	J17
13	AG	12AG	G3
	JM	12JM	J19
	RJG	12RJG	J23
	CHV	12CHV	M15
	MGN	12MGN	M7
	SMB	12SMB	L10
	CME	12CME	H16
	NEU	12NEU	J11
	TND	12TND	M12