



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College
and IB World School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful beginning to the new academic year it has been! Your children have been cooperative and thoughtful as they adapt to our Covid-secure measures and have been particularly respectful of keeping their distance from staff.

I write to (1) thank you for preparing your children so well and for heeding the plethora of advice and information I sent you at either end of the summer break and (2) to make a few quick points as we adapt and make adjustments to our plans in response to our first day at full capacity - over 96% attendance, at which I am delighted! Some reminders and a bit of new information:

1. If your child displays 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](#)). I imagine that you and your child might be feeling anxious about missing yet more school and might be tempted to gloss over a mild temperature for example, but you are keeping the whole school community safe by erring on the side of caution. Please get your child tested and isolate as per the guidance above.
2. An important reminder regarding **lockers**. Tomorrow is the last chance to empty lockers and retrieve locks. Today I started counting in my travels and reached over 100 locks still in place! We will need to start cutting them off over the weekend; you have been warned!
3. Thank you for providing packed lunches initially. Our **canteen** system is now tested and ready to provide for greater numbers. It remains open only at lunch time and only for cold food. However, there is a meal deal offer for £3 which includes a sandwich + snack + drink. (Items can also be bought separately.) Sandwich fillings currently include cheese, ham or tuna, with or without cucumber, salad, tomato, etc. There will also be a range of wraps available but they are not part of the meal deal. The variety will increase as the demand goes up again. All payments are through **ParentPay**, so please ensure your child has money available. Students provide their name and our cashiers look them up on the system in order to charge them. (This is slower than the biometric, which we are not using at present, but the result in ParentPay is identical).
4. Thank you for keeping vehicles and yourselves a good distance from the school if you are **dropping off and/or picking up**. A few local residents expressed concern this afternoon at the congestion in the roads just beyond the no-stopping zone. The further away you can say your goodbyes and arrange to meet up after school, the better. Also, the staggered

start times work best if students do not arrive too early; ideally they should aim to arrive at school no more than 10 minutes before their allotted time. They should go directly through their assigned gate to the room where they have their first lesson, even if they arrive early. We want to avoid any congregating outside the gates and on the pavements alongside the school.

5. Lastly, please ensure your child has a **bottle of water** with them. Students are not permitted to drink directly from our fountains now; they need to carry a bottle to refill.

Once again, thank you for your support in ensuring our first days have run smoothly. Our staff were genuinely energised today to have full classrooms again; there were smiles everywhere.

Best wishes,



Steve Elphick

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