



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

You may have noticed a new symptom associated with Covid-19 listed in the letter from the Director of Public Health in Bexley that I forwarded to you yesterday. However, I have been contacted today with information that the guidance has been revised again. Another letter will be circulated next week with information which I understand will confirm the following:

Diarrhoea/vomiting in children during this season is most commonly associated with viral gastroenteritis, though it may also be a minor symptom of Covid-19. However, at this point, diarrhoea/vomiting is NOT included in the symptoms for which a test for Covid-19 is required. If a child has symptoms of diarrhoea/vomiting they should be kept at home for 48 hours after their symptoms resolve.

You may be interested to hear that our attendance levels are running comfortably above 90% but there is clearly an early autumn cold circulating - some tutor groups have had several members ill at the same time this week. The good news is that sneezing and sniffing seem to be a fairly strong sign that a person does NOT have Covid-19. I can also report that to date, there have been no cases of Covid-19 positively identified in the school.

Students have adjusted well to the recommendation to wear face coverings inside when not in lessons. Please encourage your child to bring to school a reusable face covering and a plastic bag, such as a sandwich bag, in which to store it during lessons. It is worth noting that in a local restriction situation, face coverings will become required as a 'Tier One' measure, so it would be well to prepare for this eventuality by obtaining a reusable face covering, even if currently your child is not choosing to wear one.

We are reviewing our Covid-secure measures daily and seeking feedback from staff and students. The short breaks are a bit of a challenge (only 15 minutes) while the sun is shining but we haven't had wet days yet where we need to test our systems for keeping bubbles separate.

Some bus routes are still causing a few issues but generally, the start and end of school is running more smoothly now, as parents stay further from the school gates and students walk a little for the last (or first) part of their journey. Please remind your children to be considerate to local residents as they travel home. Could I also ask the sixth form at lunchtime to dispose of their litter in public bins, not those belonging to residents along Danson Crescent? And please, remember the rule of six when you are outside the school.

Finally, although we are anxious to return to our usual wealth of extra-curricular activities as soon as possible, we need to introduce them slowly and ensure they are safe. Please be patient, as we are trying to be.

Thank you again for your support.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick