



Bexley Grammar School
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A Specialist Language College
and IB World School
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Dear Parent/Carer

I sent two letters last week so this is only a quick missive as we break up for the half term holiday today.

It remains the case that no staff and only two students out of 1435 students have reported testing positive for Covid-19 in this first half term. 64 students had to self-isolate and none of them have reported testing positive for Covid-19. Since then, Tier 2 restrictions came into place, including mandatory face coverings for everyone in communal areas indoors. I would like to congratulate our students for their excellent cooperation with this change. They understand the reasons and they have adapted accordingly. All of us have needed to remind each other occasionally as we get used to another 'new normal' but the response of students has demonstrated a genuine sense of respect for each other and those at home that they cannot see.

Thank you to the families who have had to accept their child at home for self-isolation. Our safety continues to depend on every parent and your prompt action in ensuring that no student enters the school with symptoms of Covid-19.

Please read today's newsletter for important safety information on cycling to school (page 10) and also some useful information about our use of the Google Education Suite (page 9), which has become more important than ever before as a tool to support learning during the pandemic.

On our return after the break, students in years 7-11 will be issued, through tutors, colour-coded name cards (no photos or other identifying information) to help in the canteen and zoned areas at break and lunch time. Students should keep these in the breast pocket of their school blazer and use them at the perspex screens at the canteen tills to enable quick identification in the absence of the biometric system (speaking through masks and perspex is not working very well). The colours help to identify year groups so that they arrive at their appointed time and go to the correct zoned area for lunch.

Minor changes within the school day are going ahead as planned to make each break/tutor time 20 minutes instead of 15. Otherwise, we continue again following the same daily routines.

I hope you manage to break your routines and have some changes of scene over the 11 days, which should act as our own little circuit breaker.

Best wishes,

Steve Elphick