

Bexley Grammar School

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Headteacher: Mr S C Elphick

5th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

If only I were writing to you about Guy Fawkes Night or plans for Remembrance Assemblies next week!

Instead, a brief update on the impact on us of the New National Restrictions from 5 November 2020.

Mercifully, there are few practical changes for us in school. The additional guidance for educational settings clarify what we had suspected earlier in the week, that we are going to have to **put on hold our after school extra-curricular provision for four weeks**. We are very disappointed about this; we were gradually building and adding to our provision and reaching more students - PE, Music and Drama were particularly proud of what they were managing to run safely. However, we plan to resume where we left off and expand further, when we receive the green light on 2nd December.

We note carefully the guidance for those classed as extremely clinically vulnerable. We are also having to stop our lettings and will be even more strict on restricting access to the school for visitors.

Meanwhile, the year 13 mocks ran smoothly the week before the half term break and we look forward to the similar smooth running of the year 11 mock examinations next week.

I am pleased, again, to see how positively your children are adapting to wearing face coverings. A few reminders after the break, and we again have 1400 students properly 'masked up' as they move around the school; it is very heartening to see the cooperation from everyone. However, several children are repeatedly asking for a mask from reception - our emergency supply was only for the odd student who forgets. Please ensure your child has a reusable face covering or their own stock of disposable masks.

And a reminder to everyone: Please do not allow your child to come to school if they are displaying any of the Covid symptoms and inform attendance promptly.

Finally, please read our weekly newsletters, published on Thursdays, for details on a range of information that helps to keep you informed. If you miss an email, they are also published on the <u>website</u>.

Best wishes.

Steve Elphick