



Bexley Grammar School
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A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
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28th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 bubble closure

Those of you with children in Year 9 will know that I had to close our year 9 bubble in response to nine cases of Covid-19 in the year group over the weekend. All year 9 students will be having virtual learning from home until they return to school on Tuesday 6th July.

Twice-weekly testing

May I take this opportunity to remind parents/carers to continue with twice-weekly testing with the kits we have provided for your children to help prevent the virus getting into school and spreading. We have suggested Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings as a possible routine, preferably before a meal rather than after. For each test, whatever the result (Positive, Negative or Void) please report your result both to [us at school](#) and to the [NHS self report website](#).

Change to self-isolation rules for close contacts

For your information, there has been a recent change to the procedures if your child is identified by the school as a close contact of a case. In order for Public Health to track the prevalence of the Delta variant, PCR testing is now required for all identified close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case. If you receive an email because your child has been identified as a close contact, your child will now have to:

- Stay at home and self-isolate for ten full days after the date they were last in contact with the person who tested positive; and
- Arrange a PCR test as soon as possible, and inform the school of the result when received.

In addition, please note that a negative PCR test no longer allows them to return to school. Whatever the outcome of the PCR test, they must complete the ten-day isolation period. The PCR testing is to support the local tracking of variants.

Face coverings

I am also taking this opportunity to ask students and staff to return to wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas in the school building to minimise the risk of transfer between bubbles. At this stage I will not be requiring face coverings in classrooms since they remain in the year group bubbles. Please ensure your child continues to carry a face covering with them at all times.

And in other news...

I hope, as well as reading my Covid-heavy update letters, that you continue to keep tabs on all the great things going on in school, many of which are documented in our [weekly newsletters](#). Last week's newsletter was dominated by National Sports Week and we also enjoyed a year 7 min-fayre and football tournament on Wednesday which raised over £1000. There are moments when everything feels normal again as our extra-curricular life starts to buzz as it used to.

Thank you, as always, for your support. You continue to be so cooperative and understanding as we navigate the ever-changing landscape that the pandemic brings.

Best wishes,

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

Steve Elphick