



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
Tel: 020 8304 8538

Headteacher: Mr S C Elphick

e-mail: enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk

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Advice to All Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last night and this morning we received news of 3 new positive test results for Covid-19 for students in the school.

The parents of a number of students who have been in close contact with the two students who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have been informed that their children must stay at home for 10 days.

Despite the recent news coverage of the imminent changes to self-isolation guidance, the current guidance is still in place until 19th July and, in practice for us in school, until the end of term on 21st July.

Thus it remains the case that even if students who are isolating as close contacts test negative during their isolation period, they still have to complete the 10 days self-isolation. Similarly, self-isolation does not finish early if the student who tested positive with an LFD test subsequently has a negative result from a confirmatory PCR test.

The school remains open and, if you have not been contacted separately, your child should continue to attend as normal if s/he remains well. **Please do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of Covid-19.** (See the guidance below.)

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are following government guidance. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. Please see the information at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Elphick
Headteacher

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>