



Bexley Grammar School
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A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Face coverings

Thank you for your support in equipping your children with face coverings. There has been a marked improvement over the past couple of days - nearer 50 masks handed out per day instead of 400. There is still room for improvement and I would ask for a special effort in preparation for Monday mornings which always seem to catch some unawares after the change in routine at the weekend. In terms of impact, we have not had more than six students absent with a confirmed case of Covid on any one day since our return from half term, although we are starting to see a cluster of cases in years 8 and 9. Speaking to my colleagues locally, we are doing extremely well. (I note that pride comes before a fall!)

Online safety

In other news, Mr Gilmore (the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead) and I wrote to year 7 parents this week regarding some concerns over children misusing social media and specifically WhatsApp. It reminded me to remind all parents/carers of the pages we have on our website to support you in your conversations with your children about online safety. Our [Support for parents/carers](#) page has subpages to support online safety and specific advice about social media platforms. The [As it arrives](#) page has the most recent information we have received.

Sixth form open evening

Year 11 families attended a delightful sixth form open evening on Tuesday (across two sessions to manage numbers as Covid- safely as possible). We also welcomed (across a further two sessions) 278 families of year 11 students at other local schools, eager for a place in our sixth form. My favourite quotation from a visiting parent, speaking of the sixth form student helpers, was: "You should be proud of your students. Every one of them is special, those playing music, giving a speech, greeting us, in classrooms or directing us. They're all special and we're sold!"

Thank you for lending us your wonderful children each day.

Best wishes,

Steve Elphick

cc. Sixth form students