



Bexley Grammar School
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3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I apologise for disturbing your Bank Holiday - Happy New Year!

I wrote as we broke up for the holidays with details of the start of term and just need to update you today with important information based on guidance that came to schools from the DfE yesterday. The original in-school testing for all students (except those who did not give consent for testing) has been reinforced and so I've repeated it here first:

- Tuesday 4th January - Covid-testing day for students in years 7-11
(they will test and then return home - [schedule attached](#)).
- Wednesday 5th January - First day of lessons for all students
(Year 12 and 13 will test first and then go to lessons - [schedule attached](#))
- Students should arrive promptly for their test in school uniform and enter via the Sports hall car park.
- Parents/Carers will be notified only of a positive test result . If you do not receive a telephone call, please assume the test result is negative.
- **It would be appreciated if families do their own home test in addition to our school testing, prior to students returning to school (e.g. today).**

DfE guidance:

[2 January – Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Update to all education and childcare settings and providers](#)

Significant changes:

- **All students and staff are asked to wear face coverings in classrooms** as well as in communal areas inside. The only places students and staff are not asked to wear face coverings are outside. The usual exemptions apply. [“From ... Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings... The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.”](#)
- **If a student has tested positive from a PCR test within 90 days of the test dates above, they should still participate in our school testing.** [“Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.”](#)

- “Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.”

Reminders:

- **Please ensure your child has at least one reusable face covering with them at all times.** We simply cannot sustain handing out 50 or more disposable masks per day.
- If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering for medical reasons and is not carrying an exempt card - please let us know on enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk so that we can furnish them with one.
- Please continue to oversee your child's twice-weekly testing at home and report positive Covid tests to [us at school](#) and through the [Online Reporting System](#).
- Omicron symptoms present as very similar to a winter cold/flu in many people. Please keep your child at home if there is any likelihood that their symptoms are Covid. Repeated daily LFD testing is helpful but a PCR test is the most reliable measure. If in doubt, please discuss with the attendance office.
- Students who are close contacts of a Covid case should take an LFD test daily for 7 days and attend school unless they test positive or develop symptoms. Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to [us at school](#). If they test negative, they can continue to attend school each day. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 7-10 days as above. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests.
- Please be aware of the order that year groups will have lunch this term - first lunch: 12 & 9, 7, 8; second lunch: 13 & 11, 10.

I am sorry that my first communications of the new year are dominated, yet again, by Covid guidance. Thank you for your patience and support.

Best wishes,



cc. Sixth form students